

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 2, Issue 20
November 3, 1987



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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

K.C. Jones Tournament: Great Success



Dr. Paul Epstein and K.C. Jones

On Monday, August 10th, the second annual Neurofibromatosis (NF) Golf Tournament was held. Over 130 golfers attended the affair which was sponsored by the Kensington Investment Company.

Boston Celtics Head Coach K.C. Jones (right) and Tournament Director Paul Epstein are shown here in the photo engaged in the intense action. Jones has agreed to be the tournament's honorary chairman

again in 1988. In the first two years of the tournament, K.C.'s and Epstein's efforts have raised more than \$60,000 for the Massachusetts chapter of NF.

NF is a neurological tumor disorder that can affect all systems in the human body. NF occurs in one in every 3,000 births and has no cure at this time. Through the continuing efforts of K.C. Jones, the elimination of this disease may soon become a reality.

BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

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VOLUME 2, ISSUE 20
NOVEMBER 3, 1987

Cover . . .

The basketball lies still on the parquet floor of the garden, but not for long as Celtics fans across the nation await the excitement of the upcoming season. Cover photography by Robert Crawford.

Features . . .

4 King of the Kings

In yet another interesting turn of events, Bill Russell has surfaced as the coach and general manager of the Sacramento Kings, ready and willing to add his expertise to this fledgling franchise.

7 . . . From One Court to Another

Hoping to avoid the fiasco currently taking place in the NFL, the NBA Players Association sought a different forum to air their issues . . . that being a federal court in Newark, NJ.

8 Pre-Season Camp Begins

From the seeds of pre-season scrimmages, The Celtics hope to yield the fruits of another championship season. Writer Bob Schron takes a preliminary view of this year's camp.

10 . . . At Home with the Sightings

Jerry and Joni Sighting spent the summer moving into their beautiful new home in Natick, Mass. and relaxing from the taxing efforts of last year in the hopes of recuperating for another title run.

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King of the Kings

Bill Russell Throws Hat into Coaching Ring



Bill Russell: Sacramento's King.

good knowledge of the game. He knows how to win."

Said Cousy: "It's a hell of a move by the Kings. 'Russ' obvious reputation will carry impact. He's so intense, his nature brings out the best in everybody."

"He's so intense in everything he does. He's going to a franchise that needs to have a fire lit underneath it, and Russ is just the guy to do it. He might be just what they need to get them out of their lethargy. With his personality, he's either going to get them to play over their heads or frighten guys to death."

Don Nelson, another former Celtic teammate of Russell and now Golden State Warrior vice president: "I would say the Sacramento Kings are very fortunate to have a man of his stature as

their coach. The game has not changed (since Russell last coached), it's a little more refined. This is a nice move on their part."

But will it turn out to be a nice move on Russell's part? After all, he's leaving a cushy job as analyst for WTBS-TV to take charge of a team that in the past could have spelled win if you spotted it the "W-I."

For sure, it will be a different experience. As player, Russell was teamed with the likes of Cousy, Nelson, John Havlicek, the Joneses and Tommy Heinsohn. Now he'll have to deal with Joe Kleine, Franklin Edwards and John Rogers. It might make a huge difference, but Russell is undaunted.

"What I do know about is winning, and I do believe that winning can be taught," Russell said. "When I was in high school we won the Northern California championship. When I was at the University of San Francisco, we won two national championships, back to back. I was on the U.S. Olympic team. So I was winning long before I joined the Celtics."

"Winning went back to high school. I would not try to emulate the Celtics' organization, because that's East Coast. I think you have a unique team here, not like anywhere else. Not like the Lakers or the Celtics, but like Sacramento."

Russell's situation with the Kings is certainly unique for a coach. His seven-year deal with the club has a proviso allowing him to become team general manager, president and possibly part owner down the line.

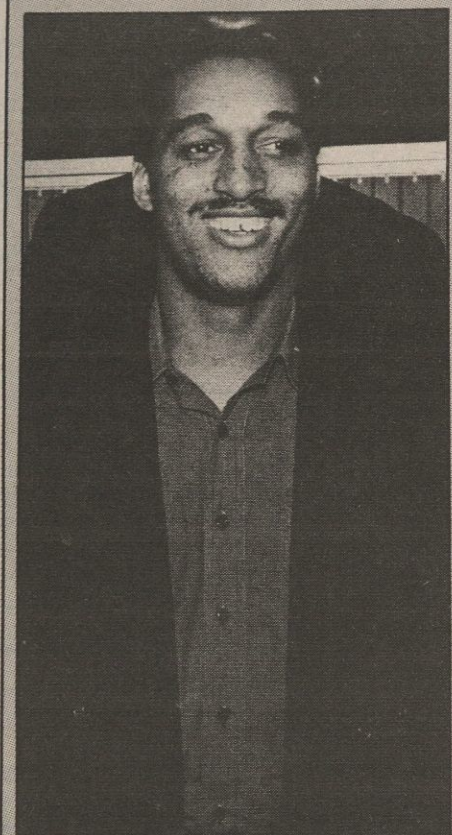
"It's an interesting place for a number of reasons," said Russell, who has a 324-249 NBA coaching record in four years with the Celtics and three with the Seattle SuperSonics. Going to the arena for a game (the Kings pack 10,333 vocal fans into Arco Arena for every home game) is a different experience. It's so noisy. It's the noisiest place on the planet. And this is one of the fastest growing places in the country. When you have a town growing like that, there's a certain amount of excitement."

Sacramento would jump even more if the Kings would win more often. Russell thinks he knows at least what one of the Kings ailments is.

"They are soft defensively," he said. "Also, sometimes in spite of the coach, you have players playing at cross purposes. Good teams also do things to other teams—you make them worry about one of two things you do. Remember, you can have a great defensive team and not have a good team. A great example is last year's New York Knicks. They played good defense and didn't go anywhere. Without too much change, we should be near .500."

"I know what it takes to build a solid franchise."

And King president Joe Axelson, a good friend of Russell's couldn't agree more. "I have been fascinated by Bill Russell's awesome playing ability and by his immense intelligence for a long time," Axelson said. "I am excited to be able to work closely with Bill Russell as we continue serious pursuit of Sacramento's first NBA championship. He's a tremendous person, both in and out of the world of sports, and we're very fortunate to be able to utilize his many talents here in Sacramento. While the team is being improved, Bill will get the most out of the players he has."



Dennis Johnson: Honor Accorded to Few.

D.J. Honored at Alma Mater

Celtics guard Dennis Johnson received the Alumni Medal of Honor from Pepperdine University during a convocation celebrating Pepperdine's 50th anniversary on Monday, Sept. 21. Johnson, who is also a member of the university's athletic Hall of Fame, is one of 11 recipients of the award given to alumni who have achieved success in a wide array of fields. Those also receiving the Alumni Medal of Honor include: Dr. Christopher Chetsanga, Nobel Prize nominee; Dorcas R. Hardy, Social Security Commissioner; and Mike Scott, winner of the National League's 1986 Cy Young Award.

Ask Red Auerbach



EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to **Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840**. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Not many people remember that Scott Wedman played in the 1976 All-Star Game. During his 20-minute stint, Scott scored 8 points and grabbed 6 rebounds. I was wondering what your recollections and opinion of Scott's performance in that game?

Bill Hamilton, Virginia Beach, Va.

RED'S ANSWER: To be honest with you, I don't specifically remember the 1976 All-Star Game. Your letter got me thinking about just how many All-Star Games I've actually seen and been a part of, and it has been somewhere around 30 of them. Since they are not games that actually count in the standings, I don't make any real effort to remember all of them. Still, I knew that Scott Wedman had played in an All-Star Game, and, considering the extent of his abilities and accomplishments both then and now, I'm not surprised to be reminded that he excelled in that game. Scott Wedman has always been an All-Star quality player, especially during his peak playing days at the end of his stint with Kansas City. Everyone knows about his great shooting talents, but he rarely has been recognized as the fine defensive player that he is. After he moved to Cleveland, he's undergone some difficult times due to a number of injuries, but you should never forget the contributions he made to our championships in 1984 and 1986; it is an unfortunate irony that he missed all of the 1984 Finals and all but a few minutes of the 1986 Finals because of injuries, after being a major element in our drive into the Finals.

QUESTION: Bill Walton is listed on the Celtics team roster as being 6-11. But it appears in pictures that he is taller than Robert Parish, who is listed as 7' 1/2". What is Bill's actual height? Was he any taller before he had the operations on his feet?

Matthew Thompson, St. Albans, W. Va.

RED'S ANSWER: You are not the first to notice that Bill Walton appears to be taller than Robert Parish when they stand side by side, even though we have Bill listed as being almost two inches shorter than Robert. Robert has always listed his height as exactly 7' 1/2", and in my opinion his insistence on that precise figure lends credibility to it. Robert is not the sort of person who would concern himself with an opponent's pre-conception of him; he is what he is, and his calm personality and steady consistency come from within. Bill, on the other hand, is an emotional guy, who psyches himself up for every game he plays and who grabs whatever psychological advantage he can. I don't know for sure, but I'll bet that Bill wants to be listed as shorter than he is in order to get an edge on his opponent. He probably wants the other guy to let down a bit when he comes into the game, on the mistaken assumption that he'll be taking on a man 6-11 rather than one 7-2. As successful as they both are, I'm not going to argue with either approach. I will

admit, though, that Bill sure looks like the taller of the two to me. As far as him losing height as the result of his foot operations, I can't buy that one.

QUESTION: Do NBA teams use a new ball each game?

Don Ford, Orlando, Florida

RED'S ANSWER: No, not at all. In fact, they never use a new ball as the game ball. At the beginning of each season, each NBA team receives a shipment of official leather Spalding basketballs, with the team identification on it. The new balls are broken in during practices, and are not used as the game ball until they've been used for a while. When the balls are new, they have a somewhat orange color, but they get darker, more brown, with use, probably from the sweat on the players' hands. During the warmup before each game, one of the officials selects a ball as the game ball; you'll often see him bouncing a few balls and looking them over before picking the one to use. I couldn't tell you exactly what he's looking for, but the ball he selects is the only ball used during the game. The ball in use is marked with a pen in some distinctive way, stays on the court during the first half and is then held by a member of the scoring crew during halftime to keep the players from using it during the second-half warmup. Each ball is used as the game ball maybe four or five times during a season.

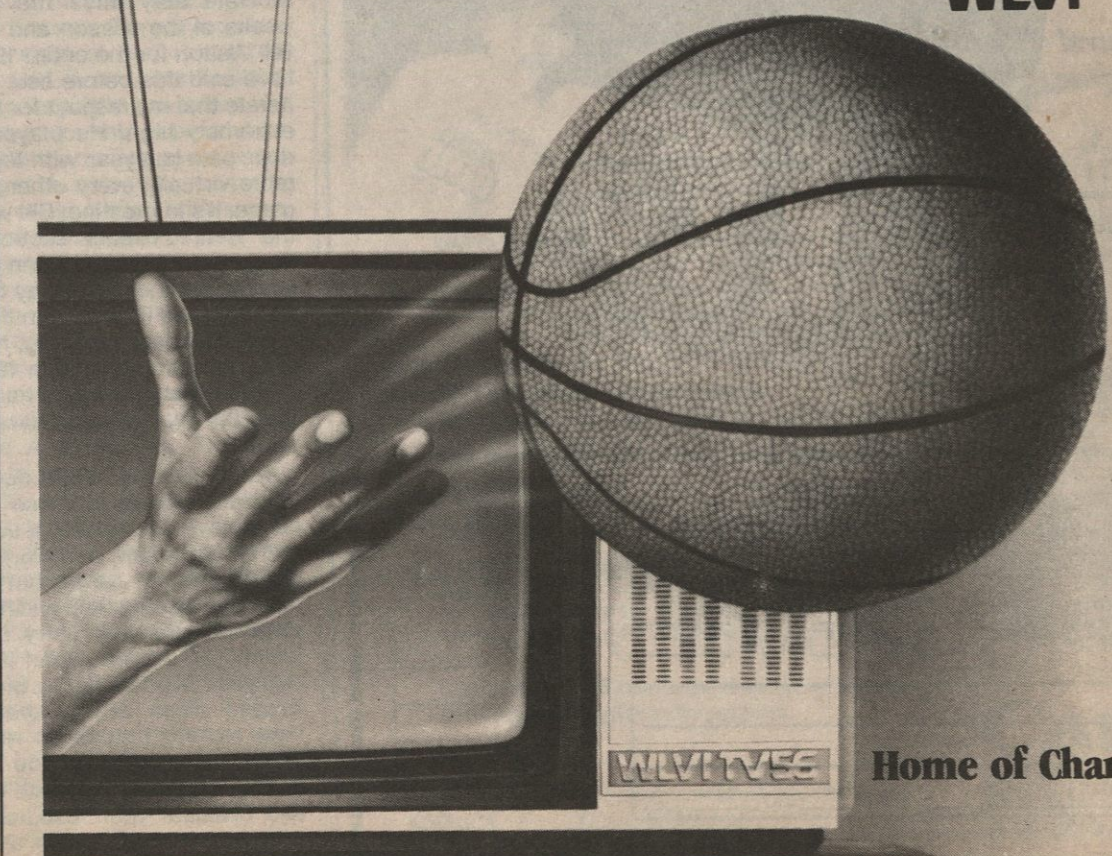
QUESTION: Players always seem to play better when

they come to the Celtics. Besides getting quality minutes for the team, which results in victories and banners, does this also result in improved stats over their stats with other teams?

Mark Byrd, R.A.F.B., Ga.

RED'S ANSWER: I'll agree that there is a long list of players who have come to the Celtics and raised their games to new heights. Some came early in their careers, more came late. Don Nelson, Willie Naulls, Emmette Bryant, Wayne Embry, Bailey Howell, Hank Finkel, Paul Silas, Charlie Scott, Nate Archibald, Rick Robey, Chris Ford, M.L. Carr, Scott Wedman, Bill Walton, Dennis Johnson, Robert Parish—all of these, and I'm sure many more whose names I'm unfortunately forgetting, came to the Celtics and earned championship rings with us. In general, though, it has not been their individual statistics that improved when they came to Boston, but their overall play, their sense of fitting into our team concept. Remember—the Boston Celtics have never had a player win the league's scoring championship while on our team. It may sound funny, but I'm proud of that, because it is testimony to a long list of guys who have sacrificed personal goals, and individual glory, for the good of the team. Most of these guys had better statistical seasons with other teams, but most of them had to wait until they got to Boston before winning that elusive ring. There's no mystical secret here, just an understanding that the ultimate accomplishment—a championship—is to be won by a team, not a bunch of individuals.

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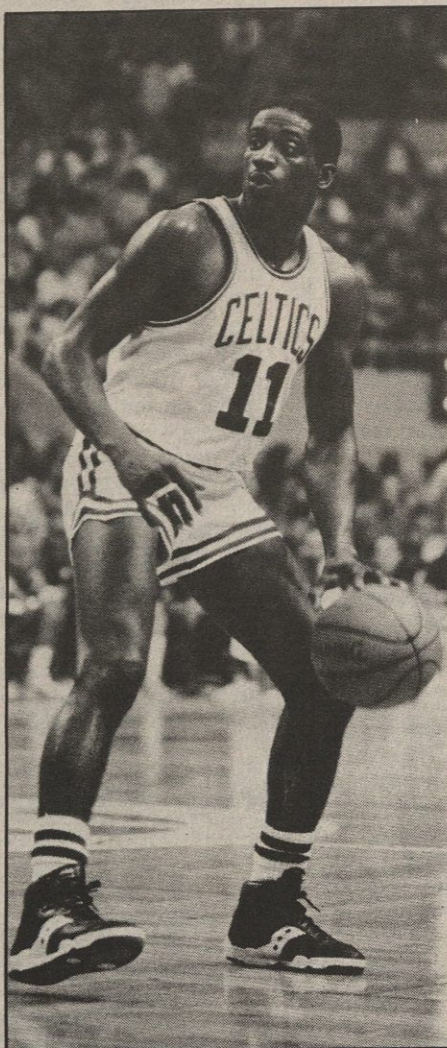
K.C.s Corner

Looking at the Positives

Coming off the heroic, if disappointing, defeat in the final series against the Lakers, our team still was able to derive some positives after the season. The integrity of the Celtics team was never more secure. I think the players' respect for one another grew perceptibly last year and it was already high to begin with. On the floor, we received some very strong efforts from players like Darren Daye, Jerry Sichting, Greg Kite, Sam Vincent and Fred Roberts. Their strong supplementary play kept last year's championship drive alive into June and

this depth, however subtle, is something we will attempt to build on in the coming year. I think also that you learn from error. If we had weak areas last year that prevented us from winning, a quiet summer of rest, thought and conditioning has to make us a better team both from the coaching perspective and from the players themselves.

Ideally, I would prefer to put the season we didn't win the championship behind us and begin anew. In many ways I think we had a great season because we played up to our potential as a team and because finishing second last season, with all of our injuries, to me, constituted a great season. But there is unfortunately a carryover due to the injuries we suffered late in the year. Kevin



Sam Vincent: Exceptional Minutes.

McHale may miss the first several weeks of the season and we have lost Bill Walton for the entire 1987-88 year. I have said this before here, but I will reiterate that my respect for Bill Walton is extremely high. He played in tremendous pain last year, with feet that would retire virtually every other player in the game. It's interesting; Bill was placed in the "Retired Greats" section of the NBA Register in 1981. He hadn't played that season and he didn't play the next year. But he made it back from that judgment and he made it back big, helping us to win the championship in 1986. I am certain that nobody works harder in rehab than Bill Walton and I have every hope for him.

But the Celtics have questions, and they are related to these injuries. We have played stretches of seasons without Kevin before; in 1986, we played a month without Kevin, but Scott Wedman was healthy then and he played the other forward with Larry Bird. We finished 15-3 in games that Kevin missed that year. Scott Wedman, of course, also missed much of last season but we have reports that he is ready to play again this year. When you look at minutes you have to approach the situation and evaluate your resources. Larry is coming back into camp all beefed up after an extensive training program this

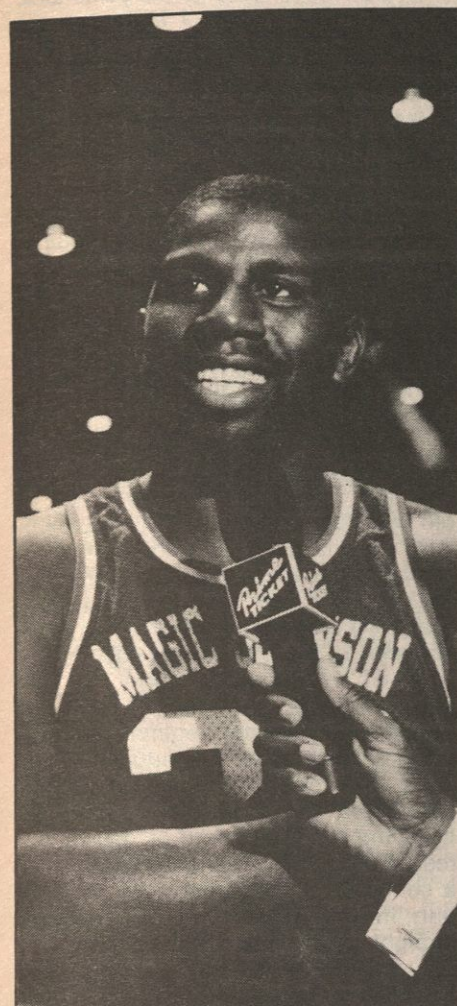
summer and it's a strong possibility he could play a lot underneath. He is invited as always to do whatever he thinks is necessary in order to help us win. He understands that is part of his role as the leader of the team. Ideally, we will be able to get some added rest time for Robert Parish and Dennis Johnson, our two superstars who are in their thirties. Greg Kite has played some effective minutes for us in the past and last year he seemed finally to shake the onus of always being in foul trouble. For Dennis, we may have some help; Sam played exceptionally well in the playoffs last year and he finally seems to feel part of it. Our first round draft choice Reggie Lewis has the potential to be another great player in the league, especially as a Celtic. He has great skills as a big guard and small forward and I have been tremendously impressed with him personally. Danny Ainge continued to prove that he is one of our best players: talent, endurance, smarts and tenaciousness on both the offensive and defensive ends. Now the veterans understand how important he is to the team. There isn't an arguable way you can disregard Danny Ainge's importance to this ballclub. He may be Kevin's favorite target for jokes but now opponents have to shut him down in order to beat our ballclub. He never stops hustling and he sets the tone for our team.

Again, assets. Is there a possibility we will coast early, try to pace ourselves until we receive a definitive word that Kevin is prepared to go full strength? It's an easy answer and that's no. For a few reasons. First, the Celtics don't understand how to pace themselves during a season. The ethic in professional sports is play to win and we will be out there every ballgame to do just that. Secondly, the players themselves on this team are so competitive it would be insulting to even contemplate such a strategy. We'll anxiously await Kevin McHale's return! We were delighted early in September when the cast was removed and the report disclosed that the healing was right on schedule. But when we're out there, we only know playing to win. When Kevin comes back, hopefully he'll be rejoining a first place team.

It won't be easy. Our schedule reveals an immediate series of games against upper echelon opponents: we play Milwaukee, Washington and two young teams, the improving Indiana Pacers and Cleveland Cavs early and these games are included in an immediate seven games in eleven day stretch. We'll be working hard to play exceptionally well early. I think that with a difficult schedule, it will be important to have the team together about their roles so that frequent games are welcome. You want to play when you're playing well.

In the past four seasons, we have had stretches of games where we have not played well. Technically, there were reasons: in 1984, the problem was in our offensive execution. I recall another period where our transition game struggled during the winter of 1985, but in both instances we got it back and went on to win. Last season, we struggled on the road but still had a very successful season. The latter issue is something we will deal with extensively during the Pre-Season, a time when we will come into camp working competitively and hard. I'm looking forward to it.

NBA Bargaining Update



Magic Johnson: Not Concerned Yet.

There's been a strange twist in negotiations between the NBA and the league's player's union in the effort to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

The players have sued the league, claiming the NBA's collegiate draft, salary cap and right of first refusal violate anti-trust laws. The suit was filed by the players' union in Newark, NJ federal court and brought on Players Association president Junior Bridgeman, free-agent guard Rory Sparrow and center David Robinson, the league's top pick in the June draft, among others.

"It comes down to free-agency," said players attorney Gerald Krovatin.

According to players association general counsel Larry Fleisher, it will be several weeks before the case is heard in court. Fleisher doesn't think the matter can be settled without having a judge and jury do it.

"If we win the case, which I think we will," Fleisher said, "maybe the owners will come to their senses and drop the restraints and reach a settlement with the players."

And what if that doesn't happen? The first thing that comes to mind is the players would follow the lead of the NFL and walk out. However, that's probably not going to be the case.

"We have no plans or intentions to strike," Fleisher said.

Los Angeles Laker guard Magic Johnson on strike possibilities: "Right now, I'm not really concerned about it. If we go out, we're not going to go out until January, so it's a little far off.

"My thing is to go in and be ready to play and not worry about the strike situation right now. We have some issues we want to discuss with them and they have been discussing them."

Maybe, but not a heckuva whole lot was accomplished in those meetings.

"Unlike pro football, we in the NBA don't have compensation such as draft choices or money for free-agency," said NBA executive vice president and chief negotiator Russ Granik. "All we have is the right of first refusal, and if an old team doesn't match an offer to a free-agent, it loses the player without compensation. We have even offered to liberalize that, but we've been told by the players to stop making proposals unless we are ready to drop the right of first refusal completely."

Granik said the NBA has instead made the following proposals:

—A team would lose the right of first refusal to a free-agent player unless it has offered him a contract based on his salary the previous season. The old team didn't have to do that under the old agreement.

—A team would lose the right of first refusal unless it agrees to keep a player for at least one season matching an offer. In the past a team could match an offer sheet then trade the player to the team that had made the offer or to any other team.

—A team could no longer get compensation from the new team by offering not to exercise its right of first refusal, as was the case in 1984 when the Knicks gave the Dallas Mavericks two draft choices for not matching an offer sheet to Pat Cummings. Under the proposal, a team could only match the offer or lose the player without compensation.

What does Fleisher think about all this? Not much.

"With regard to their proposal to liberalize free-agency, they are meaningless. Just a bunch of words. Our players have lived with the right of first refusal for seven years and it has not worked. There has been very little movement."

For example, as to their proposal dealing with the trade, any free-agent in the past could get a one-year, no-trade clause if they could get an offer sheet. So the proposal is worthless.

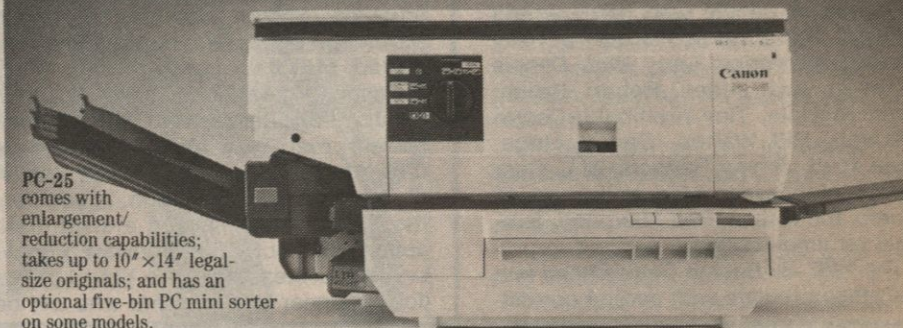
"As to the proposal that the team has to offer a salary based on last year to retain first refusal, a player who earned, for example, \$100,000 a year before he became a free-agent, would still be restricted. That's why we are still nowhere in the negotiations. There is nothing new in those proposals. They offered them to us months ago when we first began our negotiations."

There is the theory unlimited free-agency and abolition of the draft would injure the league, that everyone would want to play for the Lakers, Knicks and Celtics and no one would sign with, say Milwaukee or Cleveland. Fleisher doesn't buy that assertion at all.

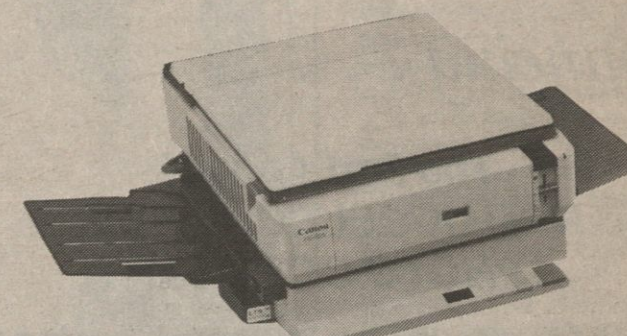
"The Celtics will come in first or second and the Lakers will come in first or second with or without the draft," Fleisher said. "Some teams draft the number one pick for 10 years and still lose. It's never been proven."

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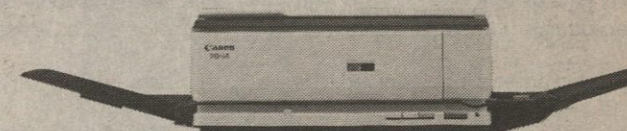
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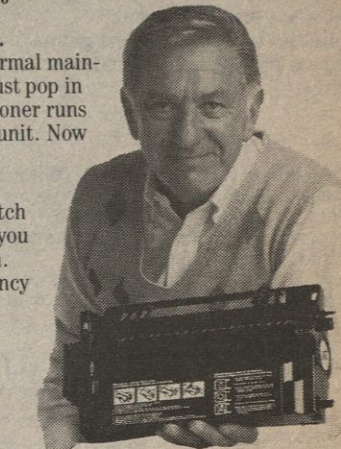
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Basketball in the eighties in Boston has been nothing short of spectacular. The accomplishments have placed this Celtics team on an equal basis with any in the storied franchise's history. Since 1981, the team has won three NBA championships, went to The Finals five times, ten all-NBA performers (first and second teams), three MVP awards, and three playoff MVPs. Since 1980, the Celtics have finished with the best record in the NBA during the regular season, six times. In an era of unprecedented competitiveness and quality, the Boston Celtics have erected a structure of brilliant basketball. Nothing less.

Names of people who have passed through the Boston Garden portray glowing memories: Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, K.C. Jones, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, Tiny Archibald, Cedric Maxwell, Bill Walton, Danny Ainge, Chris Ford, Jimmy Rodgers, M.L. Carr, Gerald Henderson, Jan Volk, and of course, the Master, Red Auerbach. Temporal yet timeless, too.

The 1987-88 Boston Celtics head into the season replete with several coexist-

ing and contradictory elements. They have the benefits of having played together for the better part of the past four years, a factor that enables them to both win on bad nights and has heretofore brought them to victory in critical playoff games. Seventh game triumphs over Milwaukee and Detroit last year signify this. On paper, both teams appeared to be better than Boston at the end of 1986-87, given Boston's injury situation. Boston also has the added advantage of possessing the aforementioned players of star-quality: Bird, Johnson, McHale and Ainge, coached by Jones-Rodgers, and Ford. These players, even with McHale out maybe until late January, should insure Boston of at least a 50-win season. In addition, the Celtics have enjoyed a solid draft, apparently. Both first rounder Reggie Lewis (Northeastern) and Brad Lohaus (Iowa) appear to be talents who will be

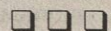
Tip-Off

Celtics Begin Pre-Season

able to contribute over the course of an eighty-two game year. And despite oft-heard criticism, players like Fred Roberts, Darren Day, Sam Vincent and Greg Kite came off the bench to contribute to an extremely successful season last year.

There are some disconcerting points about the present scene however although possibly smoke and not fire. Interestingly, each time the Celtics won the championship in the eighties, the triumphant effort began at the start of the campaign when a significant addition(s) were made to the present roster. In 1980-81, Auerbach and Bill Fitch engineered the Boston Gold Rush by obtaining Robert Parish and Kevin McHale (via draft) from the Golden State Warriors in exchange for the 1st and 13th draft choices in the 1980 draft. Before the 1983-84 triumph, Dennis Johnson was brought in from Phoenix in exchange for the baffling Rick Robey. And before the 1985-86 championship run, Bill Walton was obtained in exchange for Cedric Maxwell cash, and a 1986 first round selection. A few matters blocked such bold maneuvering during the past off-season, of course; there was the labor-management moratorium that prohibited negotiations until October 2nd. Also, for the Celtics, uncertainty existed concerning the status of Walton. The great center is out for the upcoming season after reconstructive surgery on his right foot. To attempt to remedy his absence for the team, Volk was wrangling with the league office to determine whether any of the Redhead's salary would be freed up under the existing salary cap law in the NBA. Indications were that something could be worked out, possibly freeing up one-half of Walton's money to use (approximately \$250,000 available). But these dealings took time and the latter was short because of the moratorium.

Finally, the contradiction then. With all of the stars and success enjoyed by the Celtics in the eighties, the team must come to grips with change. Bird, Parish, Johnson, and McHale are in their thirties now and the nucleus of the team has reached a stage where the passage of time now helps other teams around the league. Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland, Indiana, Chicago, Dallas, Houston . . . all are younger units who have also known success, and having followed the Celtics' lead, have allowed their teams respectively to mature together. As the Celts entered the Pre-Season, there seemed to be a creeping awareness that input may be needed in a hurry from people like Kite, Vincent, Daye, Lewis and Lohaus.



In a pre-season scrimmage, Lohaus fared extremely well in close, inside action against Parish. In several sequences, the lean rookie was able to utilize his awareness and good outside shooting to effective measure. "The trouble for me, is that I have never seen anyone as big, or as quick, as Robert Parish," marveled the rookie Lohaus afterward.

Lohaus is a seven-footer, originally from Minnesota, but a high schooler in Phoenix. Until his last year in Iowa, he

played indifferently, but during his final season with the Hawkeyes, things changed.

"Because of Tom Davis (the Hawkeye Coach the final year of Lohaus's college career). Under him, my whole game took off. There were things I knew I could do—like run the floor, shot, press—but until he came, I never has the confidence to do the. We were right there all season, finishing in the final eight on the NCAA. I never felt more confident about my game."

"Surprisingly, I didn't have as physical a matchup as when we went up against the Russians in the Pre-Season. They seemed to breed their players to a tough game and still, we almost had them. I realized then that I needed to bulk up and be ready if I hoped to get anywhere in the professional game."

Parish reported in the Pre-Season that the ankle that seemed to continually give way during last season's playoffs was fine. His game appeared intact, as did Bird's and Johnson's. "My approach is to try and get back into the flow of things gradually," reported Johnson, who had a career high in assists last year (594) and also registered his highest scoring playoff average (18.9) since 1980-81 in Phoenix, when he was named All-NBA first Team. He was following a daily workout regimen that was bringing him around gradually physically while sharpening his mental preparedness. Bird's off-season was perhaps the most profound of any of the rest of the team. Frustrated because of a series of injuries—ironically that began in Pre-Season for the second straight year—Bird went to work. He focused this off-season on lifting and flexibility work and he really is in the best shape of his career. That alone is worth anywhere from 9-20 wins. Bird is that great.

At the other end of the spectrum, McHale, although receiving daily therapy, isn't realistically expected to contribute much before mid-January. Volk is one man who is unwilling to force McHale one inch, particularly after the sacrifice McHale made during last season's playoffs. Kite and Vincent are also dual focuses of attention. Kite has played very well in key situations for this era's champions, with key games in the Lakers' Rockets and Lakers' Finals in '85-86-87. But he must deliver more consistently this season, especially without Walton. And Vincent, the team's first round draft choice in 1985, has yet to fulfill his promise, in evidence in flashes and prominently during the Detroit playoff series. One insider, a longtime supporter of Sam, confessed that Vincent may be at a crossroads in his NBA career, unable unfortunately perhaps to channel his frustration at his lack of playing time into determined productivity in games.

Finally, the Celtics Class that has captured the imagination of New England and Celtics fans across the country. Whether they were winning a championship from the Netherlands in 1981, challenging all standards as the best ever in 1986, or squaring off with destiny against all odds last year as they tried to repeat their '86 title resembling the battered survivors at Verdun, the Celtics are winners. Bird's still here, Johnson, Parish, and Ainge compose a blue-chip supporting cast and the will to win brings out outstanding basketball from this team. None of that's changed.

Finding His Place

Reggie Lewis Starts Pre-Season Camp



Reggie Lewis: Smooth and Slick.

It's a chilly early autumn afternoon, in the even earlier phase of the 1987-88 National Basketball Association season. Several of the Boston Celtics veterans and rookies are engaging in the ritual of a pre-training camp exercise: Fullcourt, three-on-three games designed to etch form upon the random basketball bursts of brilliance, and conditioning out of athletes' bodies that have been away from the game all summer. What now are the advantages of veteran guile over rookie exuberance? Dennis Johnson intercepts a Brad Lohaus outlet pass and heads to the basket. Now, he hits the foul lane, and with a sudden stop-and-go maneuver, he breaks free, glides through the air and finger rolls a floater into the basket. But then, Derrick Lewis, a rookie, answers zipping fullcourt to score a jumper, open in the transition. Ideally everybody wins (conditioning) and the only feature lost the mental and physical cobwebs that set in during the summer of time away from the sport.

On this particular day, the pickup game takes on added meaning. The Boston Celtics hierarchy is well-represented, including General Manager Jan Volk; Coach K.C. Jones, and Scout Fordy Anderson. Certainly the condition of veterans such as Johnson and Robert Parish matter. But this day, the source of interest seemingly is first-round draft choice Reggie Lewis, the player chosen as the 22nd pick in the whole draft last June. Lewis doesn't disappoint. He runs the floor gracefully as advertised. He confidently pulls up in the transition for open jumpers and nails them cleanly. His defense is less advanced, but he's already in good hands: of expert masters messers Jones and Johnson. More than the composite of individual skills however is a

In evaluating a player who is as important as the first round draft choice of a team as triumphant as the Boston Celtics, several different aspects of the player and the man must be considered. Talent, poise, personality, durability. Some men who have direct and indirect contact with Reggie Lewis comment on his abilities to make it with the Celtics.

Karl Fogel, Coach of Northeastern University. "I think what Reggie can give the team is quick scoring. I also think he has the ability to make an immediate contribution, and be a credit to the Celtics whether he's a star or a role player."

"I hope he gets a chance, especially with Kevin injured. The advantage Reggie has is that he's a bonafide swingman. He's a very good rebounder from the guard position and I think he definitely can do the job as a small forward. Especially since I think Larry Bird is so effective down low."

"He's a great inside player with a terrific jump hook. He definitely can play a physical game inside. He's a natural guard in the respect that he can play well off the ball. He can run the floor and shoot from the outside. He's not a point guard—don't expect him to bring the ball up ninety-four feet against a

Maurice Cheeks. He's never had to do that."

"As far as his personality goes, the story I remember about him is that when I went down to recruit him in Baltimore, he's the only player I ever had who sat there (I was visiting with his mother) and never said *one word* in the whole hour-and-a-half I was there. Then, when we were successful in landing him, I picked him up from Logan Airport and we got caught in traffic around the Fenway area (the section of Boston where Northeastern is located). Needless to say, after fifteen minutes, we ran out of things to talk about. But the best part of it all is that in four years of playing, as he became the great player that he is, he never changed personally. Always went about his business and let his play talk."

It's an important early impression, because one of Coach Jones' firmest coaching tenants is in order for player to come in and be successful as a rookie, he must be able to block out nervousness and distractions and play *his* game. In an interview, Reggie Lewis discussed this playing attitude, and talked about the Celtics and his strengths and

weaknesses as a player. It was after the scrimmage; as the players towed off, Dennis Johnson asked how the rookies' summers had been and talked about some of his pre-season plans. "I'm a veteran, now," he said half-seriously. "I won't come in and play with the rookies during rookie practice. Too much running! I'll lift, play a little and get ready for camp." Reggie laughed at this affably. Lewis is soft-spoken, shy by reputation. Yet, it's evident the young man thinks the game, and often the better players are the ones who are able to low-key it off the floor while being tigers on it.

"I would be upset if I don't play," Lewis answers the question about rookies and a (Celtic) tradition of limited playing time. "But I'm not going to let it affect my game. My idea is to play hard when I'm out there, when I have the opportunity, to play well. Hopefully that will impress K.C. and I'll be out there for more minutes."

"I was delighted to be picked by the Celtics. They're a great organization. The players play hard, they win, and they expect to win. What impresses me about the guys is they are close and

certain, diplomatic arrogance. Subtly, Lewis plays as if he belongs out there. Jones and Volk stand silently, but it appears they are pleased with what they see out there.

Ed Badger, Scout, Boston Celtics: "Reggie has size and he is long-armed a kid who played mostly forward in college. But I have a strong feeling he can play effectively outside. We think he can become the ideal backup for Dennis Johnson; eventually, in a few years, we might be able to groom him for Dennis's position, bringing him along under Dennis's tutelage."

"Reggie can get the job done as a shooter, rebounder, and as a player who is able to run the floor. He's just a fine prospect."

"Our biggest job with him is to keep him thinking as a guard."

"The thing to remember about him is that we thought he'd go in the top ten or twelve in the draft. He had a good college career and a solid Hawaii tournament. He fell down in the Chicago scouts tryout, which was a plus for us."

"In every draft, players slip down. We knew some would—they always do, not that we thought someone like David Robinson would ever slip. But when the scouts convene, they place players they think will go in the top ten-fifteen. Then what we did, was take a next grouping of ten who logically appeared to be available, and that included us, since we were drafting 22nd."

"At first, we thought Reggie would be gone, but then we were starting to get some Chicago vibes that he might be there. So we readjusted things, and included Reggie as an outside possibility. We listed three players who we would take if they were there and Reggie was on that list. Once he was available, there was no choice but Reggie."

they play together. In a way, they really are a family. I really appreciate it when some of the veterans, like DJ and Danny Ainge come up to me and offer me tips and good wishes. That means a lot."

"I was happy to be selected by the Celtics. I didn't have to move, or get adjusted to new basketball situation. I'm excited about playing in the NBA; they're the elite, the best in the world. Two of the players I modeled my game after are Larry Bird and Dennis Johnson. Larry is such a smart player. He's always thinking everything out as he plays. Dennis is just a great, great player on defense and on offense. His defense is well known but on offense, he's a great passer and he sees everybody on the court. Another player I used to emulate growing up was Gervin."

How does Lewis see himself fitting into the Celtics and how does he see himself making the Celtics better? "Well, I hope they feel they don't have to pace themselves because there's another player behind them who can play. I think I have the ability to score some quick baskets coming off the bench. But I do think I need to learn some things on defense. My goal is to try to fit into the Celtics style, be able to run, set picks . . ."

Announcing . . .

The 2nd Annual KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST

Here's How You Can Win a Chance to Photograph a Game from Courtside

All you have to do is send us your best sports-oriented photograph and you could be a winner. Five lucky first place finishers will receive a courtside pass to photograph a Celtics game in the Boston Garden.

In addition, the following prizes will be awarded to first place finishers:

- a new Kodak K 12 35mm camera
- a personally autographed 20" x 30" color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtic
- "Home of the Brave," the 1986-87 Celtics videotape
- a complimentary 1-year subscription to CELTICS PRIDE
- Kodak film

Second and third place finishers will receive:

- a personally autographed 20" x 30" color photo enlargement of their favorite Celtic
- "Home of the Brave," the 1986-87 Celtics videotape
- a complimentary 1-year subscription to CELTICS PRIDE
- Kodak film

One lucky grand prize winner will be selected from the field of first place finishers. That person will receive the following exciting prizes:

- an authentic NBA game ball autographed by the entire Celtics team.
- 2 tickets to a Celtics home playoff game.
- a Celtics warm-up jacket.
- 2 tickets to a Celtics home game preceded by dinner at "Blades and Boards," the Celtics and Bruins private club located in Boston Garden.

Entry Rules

1. The contest is open to amateur photographers only.
2. Black-and-white and color photographs are eligible.
3. Prints and slides will be accepted.
4. Photographs must have a sports-oriented theme. They do not necessarily have to be basketball related.
5. Any number of photographs may be entered. Contestants name, address and telephone number(s) must be written clearly on the back of each print and/or accompanied with each slide. Mail or hand deliver your entries to:

KODAK/CELTICS PRIDE PHOTO CONTEST
c/o The Boston Celtics
150 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

6. Entries will not be accepted after March 1, 1988.
7. Pictures will be available for pick-up at the above address until April 1, 1988. ALL UNCLAIMED PICTURES WILL NOT BE RETAINED.
8. A total of 5-first, 5-second and 5-third place finishers will be selected. One set of winners will be selected each month beginning Nov. 1, 1987.
9. Neither Kodak or Celtics Pride will be responsible for transportation to or from games to be photographed.



At Home with the Sichting Family Summer in the City



Jerry and Joni: Home in Boston.

have two sons, Jared (6) and Jason (2)—as in other Celtics families, The Game is

front and center. Figure to the ground.

Maybe this applies even more distinctly to a man whose career in basketball appeared to be over before it even began. Jerry Sichting was cut on the final round from his first NBA team, the Golden State Warriors in 1979, the Warriors saddled with a number of veteran guards (John Lucas, Jo Jo White, Sonny Parker, Phil Smith, for example) with no-cut contracts. Disregard the fact that these veterans were for the most part more name than ability. In the business of professional basketball, a team with financial difficulties cannot afford to pay players who don't play for them. The veterans were kept, the impressive young Sichting cut, and the latter was back home in Martinsville, Indiana, a summer beyond his college career at Purdue University and light years away from the parquet floor in the Boston Garden. "But the climb back is not done all in one season like in the movies," says Sichting now, back home after a late morning workout with other Celtics, Danny Ainge, Dennis Johnson and Robert Parish. "It's a gradual climb" Sichting made the Indiana Pacers in a tryout and gradually became a starter there. "You find playing time and you get yourself established. Then you get lucky."

"The important point to remember is that if a player hangs in there he'll get at least one, maybe two opportunities to show if he can or cannot play. He just has to take advantage of his chance."

In 1981, the Pacers, also struggling financially, chose not to sign their starting guards of the previous two years, Johnny Davis and Don Buse. Gradually Sichting stepped into a prominent role in the Pacers backcourt. He's a player who's wiry tough, with good ball handling skills, very good jumping ability

and firm confidence in his jumping. He was a strict "insiders' player"; although the general public and much of the media knew little about his talents, player personnel types did. When Sichting became a free agent before the 1985-86 season, the Knicks and Jimmy Rodgers of the Celtics wanted him badly. And Jerry and Joni Sichting wanted the Celtics.

"I have no illusions about myself," says Jerry. "Recognition never really bothered me. I have no great need to be in the limelight. I just want to play, have fun, and try to win. My idea of accomplishment is being an excellent role player. Not being in the paper. I want to be on the team that has Larry Bird and Kevin McHale. My whole attitude is being a bonafide role player and getting the job done for the team. To that end, being with the Celtics has definitely changed my career. I went from an also-ran to the champion in my first year here (1986). It's been a chance to play on a great team. And in a great city. The history and culture in Boston is very interesting."

"When Jerry wanted to go to Boston, I naturally was right with him." Adds Joni. "It's funny. There was something difficult about picking up and moving to a new place, but I never thought of coming to Boston as a disadvantage. Partly that was because the Pacers' organization wasn't great. But Boston and the Celtics were a tremendous place to be."

□ □ □

The Sichting family awaited their new colonial contemporary home (It also has a boat roof over the family room for a distinctive look) for over a year. They had planned to move there a year ago, but because the home was in a new development and because of delays in getting to the foundation (as well as a bad winter in the Boston area), they moved there just last month. In a sense, the home has established a sort of stopping place for the family. When Jerry Sichting signed with the Celtics in the fall of 1985, Jason had just been born, and although they had planned to buy immediately, the real estate market caught the midwestern couple by surprise. They discussed it, and decided that if they were planning to invest a sizeable sum of money for a home, that they wanted to be certain of where and who would build it. They decided to build in Natick, after living for a year in Wellesley. They lived in Wellesley last year as they waited to move.

"I liked the home in Wellesley because it was on a dead-end street. With young children, that's an advantage," states Joni. The issue of how life in a public forum is addressed by the couple. "It used to bother me at first. It's funny about a life style. At the end of a career, you begin to like it, because you've adjusted. I think we're OK because Jerry isn't a superstar and I find that people are pretty considerate of your privacy anyway. Being in Boston has helped us as a family because of the flights. In Indianapolis, we couldn't ever have an easy schedule because flights were so difficult. Now we see Jerry more because there are so many flights in and out of Logan Airport."

"I think the game changes for you once you have a family. For most guys it's from 'gym rat' to 'adulthood,' neces-

sary change because you have increased responsibility. You basically do have to leave the game at the Garden. Although some things do eat at you, like if you're in a slump or something. If I'm not playing well, I won't ever take it out on my kids. But if it doesn't affect you (when you're not playing well), you're in trouble, too."

Their home is designed with an aim toward integrating a colonial, traditional style in a modern, contemporary setting. The appliances and the structure are new. The furniture and wood, and Oriental rugs create a feeling of genuine character, too.

□ □ □

Arguably, one of the most important games in the Bird Era was that seventh game against Milwaukee last spring. Could a physically impaired team rally from the gallows (104-96 Milwaukee at 5:51) and gallantly defend their title? Matters worsened. Danny Ainge went down with a severely sprained knee. Enter Jerry Sichting, whose time through the postseason was limited.

"Every player wants to play. When you're not in the game, you have to stay mentally ready. My heart sunk like everybody's when Danny went down. I just went in (although cold) and tried to fit into the flow. Things began happening so fast in our rally that you just play your game. I took the shots I normally take..."

Indeed, Sichting, off the Celtics' passing game, scored two consecutive long jumps to spur a huge, sweeping Boston rally.

"Then the crowd got back into the game. I think they might have been ready to cash it in at that point. You play eighty-two games a season and the season can get monotonous, even though

every game is important. But games like that are fun. They're a challenge. That's what keeps you playing." Celtics 119, Milwaukee, 113.

□ □ □

One of the advantages for the Sicht-



The Sichtings: Family Within a Family

stress. Being in a new place has helped us to realize that we do depend on each other."

"At this moment, son Jerod comes rushing up to Jerry and cries out, 'Buenas dias, Daddy!' Wearing a Larry Bird shirt and a confident boyhood swagger, the proud youngster tells his father of his new linguistic addition. "Did you learn that in school?" the Celtic asks, but too late, the boy is out the door, on to the next adventure, leaving Joni to explain.

"This morning at the market we saw a Chinese man, and I explained to him about different nationalities. We got around to French, so I taught him *Bon jour*. Hello in French. He just had some trouble keeping it all straight."

Life after basketball and young fatherhood may hold one of several options for Jerry Sichting. Fellow students from the players' days at Purdue have several ideas. One is a replica of an Indiana format. Sichting would refurbish a building and build several basketball courts that would be available for year-round rental. "I'm considering several business ventures," he states. "But right now, I'm busy with playing and I probably don't give as much thought to that as I should." Sichting hopes to play two-three more years.

"We're basically very, very happy in Boston. I wasn't certain about where we'd settle after Jerry was through playing. It depends on what develops for Jerry when he's through, what business possibilities look promising. But we love Boston."

"The attractive aspect of the Celtics," Joni Sichting summarizes, "is that it is a family type team. We have a close feeling among the people here because we basically do have a group of people with young families."

How Jerry Sees it

Some thoughts from Jerry Sichting about the Celtics as they head into the new season. Where did they fall short? What are his personal goals? What do the players need to do to win it all again this season?

About the Lakers series: "In the second half of Game 6, we were ahead by five points (trailing in the series, 2-3). I think in the first five minutes of the third period, the Lakers decided to throw everything they had at us. If we had been able to answer, I think we really would have had their minds. The Lakers came out with a last-ditch effort to get the crowd on their sides. We just didn't match their intensity."

About the 1987-88 season: "On paper, without Kevin and Bill Walton, it would be hard for people to tap us. But we have quality players. If Scott Wedman can make it back, that's a decided help. We need to play steadily throughout the first half of the season until we get Kevin back. The main thing we need to do is to play with the thought of improving throughout the entire season. We lost it toward the end of the year last season and it was the worst possible thing to have happen going into the playoffs."

About the road: "I don't know why we played so poorly on the road last season. We just finished playing very well on the West Coast. Maybe we were tired, or injured. Maybe the Lakers were so far out in front for the best record that we sort of lost our incentive. Without the home crowd's boost, a tired



Jerry loves this town.

team has trouble."

About his 1987-88 season: "I made a resolution to get into the best possible shape I could coming into this season. I ran five times a week, lifted four times a week and played basketball every day. Before I hurt my ankle (an injury during a practice game that kept him away from the games for eight weeks), I was there. Mentally, I'm ready to have a strong season. I just keep reminding myself: There's nothing wrong with the ankle structurally. It will be a positive season. I'm sure."

About the pressure on the Celtics to excel: "Every player has tasted so much success. Once you've been on top, even though we were the runners up last season, well, it's a bitter taste. We thought we should have won last season. Any time this team head into the final round, they think they should win."

Boston Celtics Crossword Puzzle

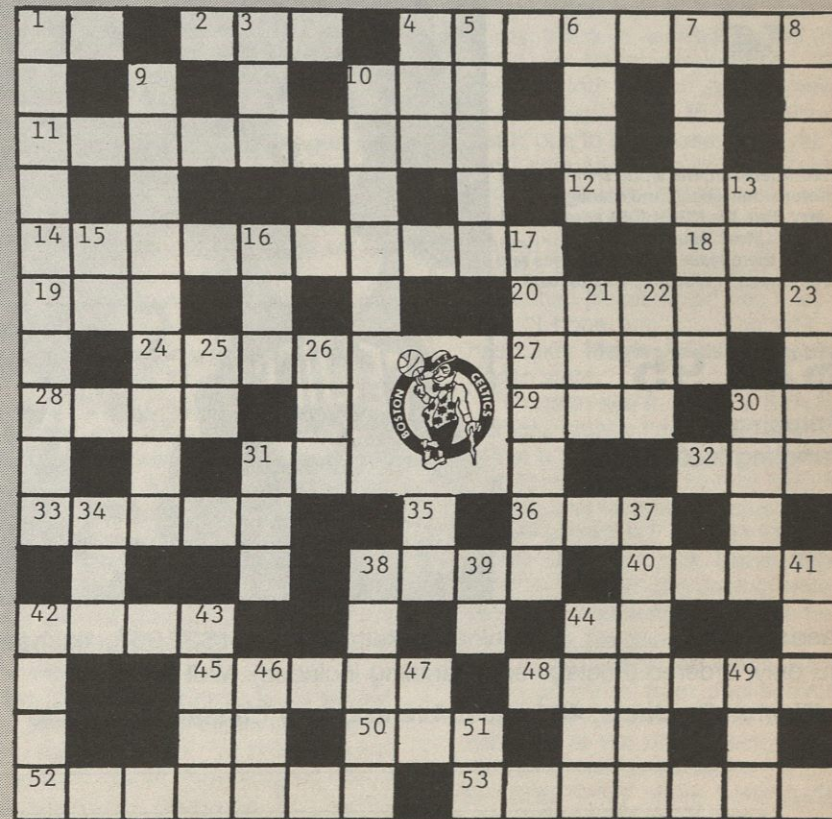
CLUES

ACROSS

- Initials of a Celtic point guard
- Shriners Burns Institute
- Team daily chore
- WEDMAN's zodiac
- Method of shooting position
- Stand tall position
- Place of team departure
- _____ team go!
- Period
- Young toddler
- When score is even
- Stamped emblem
- Pathway overhead sign
- Number of players on court
- Eastcoast state abbrev.
- Preposition
- A former Celtic superstar HEIN-SOHN
- Paul Dupee's executive title
- WEDMAN's mate
- In your _____!
- Celebrate the Celtics victory when game is _____
- _____ performance by a player
- Football player pos. (init.)
- Coach patterns of the game
- Players use _____ sense
- _____ Hill
- Celtic fans town in Massachusetts
- "Be a part of it" Support the CELTICS _____ season.

DOWN

- PARISH magic number
- Its a good time for a great taste when you visit the snack _____
- Writing tool
- Horseman's festival
- _____ of Ethics
- _____ defense by a team
- NBA squad in All-Star Game
- Learning ability
- BIRD
- Pro or _____
- Ready _____ not, here I come!
- Optical
- Error
- Born
- Ceiling apparatus
- AINGE'S army
- See it to believe _____!
- Two performers
- JOHN PAUL II title
- Give it a _____!
- Question word
- Degree
- Religion
- Mayor of Boston
- Kind of radio
- What joggers do?
- Cushion
- Not shut
- Decayed
- Biblical male
- Music scale note
- To possess
- Bill Walton



Solution on page 18





Eddie Gillooly

Scotty's the Key

Never mind the rookies and the free agents, the key to the Celtics getting off to a quick start without Kevin McHale this season, is Scott Wedman, the oldest player on the team's roster for the 1987-88 season.

Wedman, recovering from a heel injury that sidelined him last season, remains a huge question mark. Very little has been said about the 13-year veteran during the off season. The silence would make one think he doesn't figure in the Celtics plans.

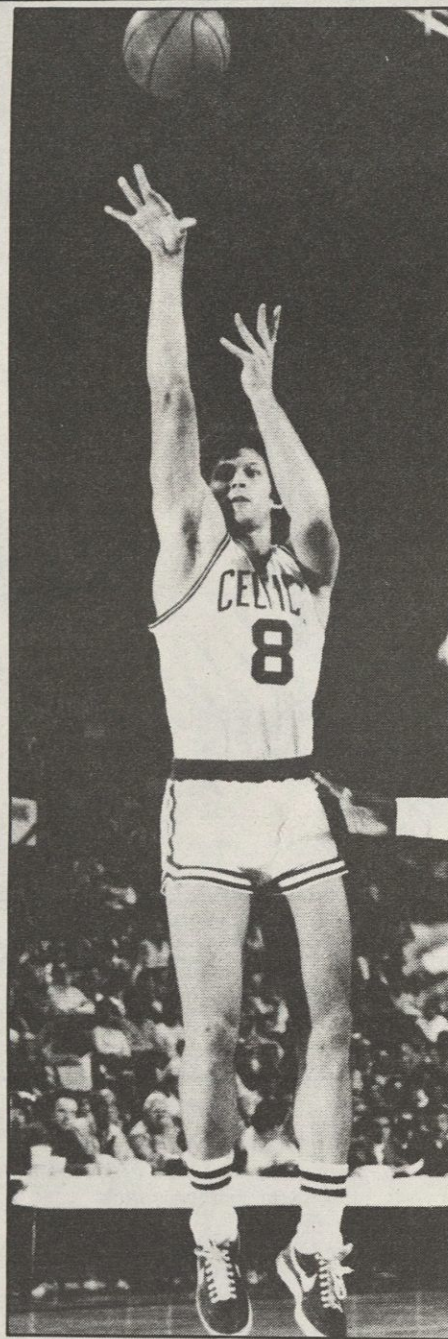
If the Celtics have had any contact

with him during the past few months, they've done a good job keeping it a secret. Nary a word has been mentioned about him during the many interviews concerning the team's plans.

But don't count Wedman out because his name hasn't been bandied about. Scott is a prolific scorer and if he has recovered from his injury without having lost any mobility, he'll be in the starting lineup during McHale's absence, which could be as many as 15 to 20 games.

The 35-year-old Wedman has never been noted as a speedster but his quickness in getting to the open spots has earned him recognition as one of the most feared shooters in the NBA.

In the six games he played last season, it was obvious he was having prob-



Scott Wedman: Seems Ageless.

lems. The movement wasn't there and his shots were being blocked despite his quick release. He also was ineffective on defense.

Wedman is a physical fitness buff and is always in top condition. He seems ageless. But the off-season silence concerning his condition has led to speculation the heel injury has not responded.

The real test for Wedman will come early in the training camp. If he can withstand the rigors of the double sessions without aggravating the heel, Wedman will make the decisions by the Celtics coaching staff much easier.

Wedman is a court-smart player. He's a good position rebounder and his defense is better than adequate. Whenever he's filled McHale's forward slot in the past, the Celts have been successful. During a 15 game stretch two years ago, the Celts were 11-4 with Scott replacing McHale.

With a healthy Wedman in the lineup

to provide some perimeter shooting, Larry Bird will be able to work inside and assist Robert Parish on the boards. Larry is capable of playing the 'big-man' role because of his knack for getting rebounds. As a result, Larry would get more layups.

Scott is capable of averaging 15 to 20 points a game which is what the Celtics coaching staff expects from the forward slot occupied by McHale.

With or without Wedman, K.C. Jones probably will put more emphasis on perimeter shooting, particularly by the guards, during the early part of the season while McHale is recovering from his operation. The low post game won't be as dominant.

Unless one of the rookie seven-footers surprises or the Celtics acquire a quality back-up center before or during the training camp, Jones won't be forcing a lot of plays into Parish. It would put too much strain on Parish to set up in the low post on every possession.

When McHale's in the game, Parish is mostly at the top of the key or setting picks for Bird. This allows the Celtics center to get back on defense or go to the boards for a rebound.

With their starting unit—Bird, McHale, Parish, Danny Ainge and Dennis Johnson—on the court, the Celtics shooting ratio was 50 shots for the front court and 17 for the back court.

On the other hand, the Celtics reserve guards outshot the reserve front court by a 13-5 ratio.

Overall, the Celtics averaged 86 shots a game with 64% by the front court players and 36% by the back court. The inside power game has been most effective in recent years and the Celtics opted to dominate via that route.

Until the power game is back in place, Jones might place more offensive burden on Johnson and Ainge, increasing their shots to 30 to 40 a game. This would give the Celtics a more balanced game.

It would also enable the Celtics to reduce Parish's shots to 8 to 10 a game, thus conserving his energy for other aspects of the game. If Ainge and Johnson develop consistency early, there wouldn't be any need to force the offense inside.

However, the long game will present some problems with the Celtics getting back on defense because they lack the speed of the other teams. That's one of the reasons Jones prefers the inside game.

Parish averaged 13 shots last year and normally he'd be expected to increase that number with McHale sidelined. But without a quality backup like Bill Walton, Jones can't afford to risk that strategy.

A healthy Wedman would be ideal in this situation. He'd be taking approximately 15 shots while Bird would main his 20 shots a game average. With Parish's 10 shots, that would give the Celtics a 45 to 35 shot ratio with their starting five.

The opposition respects Wedman's shooting ability and won't be able to leave him alone on the court to double someone else. And, with four perimeter shooters, the Celtics could utilize a lot of the court to spread out the defenses.

But that's all speculation. It won't become fruition until Wedman gives his foot the real test in the workouts.

Supreme Court

By Tony Cooper

We're not going to mention any names, dates or places (OK, at least not yet), but there were more than a few occasions last season when they had a fight and a basketball game broke out. And the NBA wants to do something about it.

A proposal recently passed by the NBA's Competition and Rules Committee states that players committing unnecessary and violent fouls would be fined up to \$25,000. The proposal was submitted to the league's Board of Governors, and if approved, would be in force at the start of the 1987-88 season.

NBA director of operations Rod Thorn said the intent of the heavy fine is to punish those naughty fellows who commit "brutal, violent, above-flagrant fouls."

Punching fouls, however, fall into a different category, but don't ask why. The top fine for this peccadillo will stat at 10 grand. That's currently the most the league can fine any player.

"Last year in the playoffs, there were several incidents and there have been more of these really tough fouls," said Thorn, a former NBA player, coach and general manager. "And we're talking about half court situations not a breakaway. The consensus seems to be to stop a player from getting a layup and drilling him into the floor. I don't think that's what we're looking for in our game."

The league aims to stop such episodes as what happened in a playoff game between the Celtics and Detroit Pistons, when Robert Parish used Detroit center Bill Laimbeer's head as a punching bag. Other events during that series made one swear it was the Bruins and Red Wings out there.

Parish's action would probably cost him \$25,000 under the new rule, but Thorn said the Celtic center won't be punished any more than he already has. Parish was fined \$10,000 and suspended one game for hitting Laimbeer, the second harshest punishment in NBA history. Thorn said this incident wouldn't be covered by the new rule because it was a punching foul.

Laimbeer (who was born in Boston by the way) has the dubious distinction of being the catalyst for this proposal. It was Laimbeer who knocked Larry Bird and Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins to the floor in separate rather zealous fouls last year.

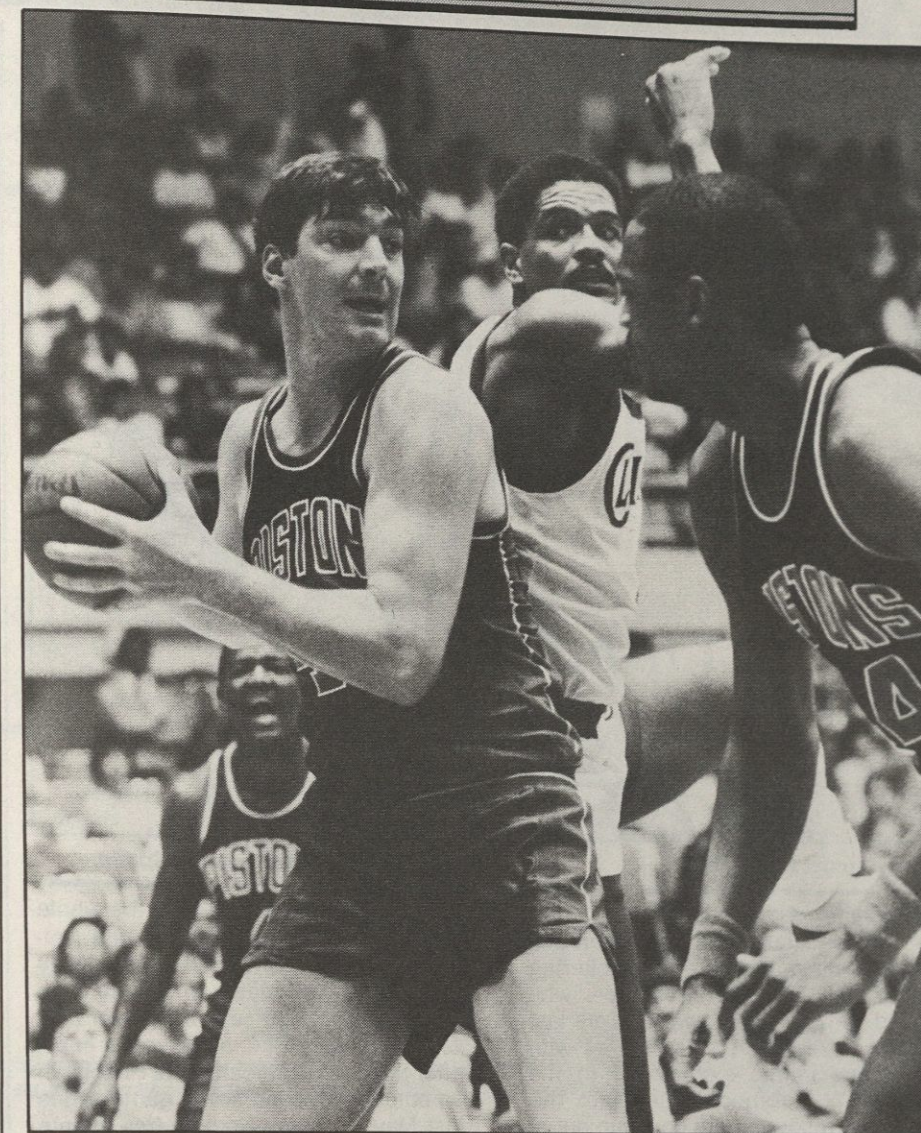
"You're just seeing fouls in the half court you didn't used to see," Thorn said.

The Competition and Rules Committee also discussed a proposal to lengthen the court by 10 feet, but Thorn said there was little support for the idea. Helmets and shoulder pads for the players? Maybe next year.

GREASE IS THE WORD: Denver Nugget forward Calvin Natt, a great player who missed nearly all of last season with a torn Achilles' tendon, was hospitalized with burns suffered in a grease fire at his Denver home.

A Nugget spokesman said Natt's left arm was "badly burned" while trying to extinguish a fire in his kitchen.

"He was cooking chicken and one of his children started fussing in another



Bill Laimbeer: Dubious Distinction

room" Nugget PR man Harvey Kirkpatrick said, "Calvin went back to call him, and when he came back, the kitchen was on fire."

Kirkpatrick said Natt grabbed the skillet, threw it into the sink and ran cold water on it. Natt was burned when the water caused grease splatter.

Natt was hospitalized for several days to guard against infection, and he may not be ready for the start of training camp.

WARRIOR WORKOUT: The Golden State Warriors have enlisted a new workout program called plyometrics, a series of exercises developed by Europeans and popularized by Donald Chu, a fitness guru who is the team's conditioning coach.

The exercises are performed in conjunction with a running and a weight-lifting program are designed to improve flexibility, build muscles and increase stamina, said Chu, who has a PhD in physical therapy.

"Plyometrics are basically jumping, leaping and bounding exercise," said Chu. "They look easy, almost like children's exercises, but they can be very difficult to perform correctly."

Golden State has made a habit of doing things incorrectly on the basketball court the past few years. But the Warriors made the playoffs for the first time in 10 years in 1986-87. Under Chu's tutelage, the Warriors are hoping leaner bodies will mean even more wins.

"It (plyometrics) builds strength rapidly, which translates to power," Chu said. "And power is what it's all about."

TOE-TALLY AWESOME: Talk about an item for the Irony State U. file. A Keith Lee for Jim Paxson trade between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Portland Trail Blazers was nixed by the league because Lee turned out to be damaged goods, but Paxson is the one who's ailing. The veteran guard has a seriously injured toe that could keep him on the sidelines up to 12 weeks.

Portland medicine man Robert Cook says Paxson may need surgery. The toe has troubled Paxson since 1981.

"From three to 12 weeks is probably average," said Cook of the recovery timetable.

Paxson, who was dissatisfied over his limited playing time last season, still wants to be traded. No word on how Lee's knee is doing, incidentally.

SOUND OF JAZZ: First, it was a top draftee Jose Ortiz. The Oregon State center told the Utah Jazz he'd rather ply his trade in Spain than Salt Lake City, so off he went.

Now it's Western Kentucky power forward Clarence Martin. The third round-pick said "Sayonara" to the Jazz and will play in Japan this season. Utah's highest ranking rookie at the team's rookie/free-agent camp was Providence guard Billy Donovan.

Utah is pretty well-stocked up front, so Ortiz and Martin probably won't be

missed much. That's why the Jazz aren't too upset over their defections.

"It gives these guys an opportunity to mature, and we might not be as deep after the expansion," Utah chief scout Scott Layden said. "It doesn't hurt us to have those guys sitting over there."

Among those on hand at the Jazz camp is Keith Webster, a guard from Harvard.

OFF THE COURT/IN THE COURTS: The Los Angeles Clippers have reached an out of court settlement with the NBA over the league's suit to force the club to move back to San Diego.

The settlement calls for the Clippers to hand over some \$5.7 million to the NBA, which is its share of the expansion revenue paid by the league's four new franchises. Miami, Minneapolis, Orlando and Charlotte paid \$32.5 million each to join the league.

The NBA had sued the Clippers to force them back to San Diego after the team moved to LA in 1984 without league approval. The suit was to have gone to trial in October at US District Court, where the NBA was seeking to have the franchise return to San Diego or pay \$25 million to the league.

Negotiations between NBA Commissioner David Stern and Clipper owner Donald Sterling led to the settlement, which must be approved by a three-fourths majority of the board of governors.

"It's virtually a done deal," said Clipper executive in charge of business operations Andy Roeser. "I think it represents a good deal for the league and a good deal for us. Now that the lawsuit is behind us, we can get down to the real issue at hand, basketball."

Considering the Clippers' showing on the wood the past few years, they might be better sticking with lawsuits.

QUOTEBOOK: Warrior center Joe Barry Carroll on his tennis game: "My tennis game is exceeded only by my talent for brain surgery." ... Sacramento King coach Jerry Reynolds, dropped back down to assistant coach status due to Bill Russell's arrival: "How can I complain? I've got a full-time job and my wife's got a new vacuum cleaner. Life is great." ... A sports information director for a Southeastern Conference school, when asked if a certain basketball player would see a lot of action: "I hope not." ... The NFL strike has Laker Magic Johnson in an angstridden state.

"I hate to see it. I live for Sunday and Monday nights. I'm a big football fan. I got to a lot of games, pro and college. I love football. It was kind of hard for me Sunday and Monday to adjust."

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPT: NBA top pick David Robinson says he will join the Jacksonville (Fla.) University coaching staff when he completes his two-year Navy hitch. Robinson is an ensign at Kings Bay, Ga., some 30 miles from Jacksonville. ... Former Warrior assistant coach Bob Zuffelato is the new director of player personnel for the Milwaukee Bucks. ... Ex-Blazer front office honcho Stu Inman, who had that job, left for a similar position with the expansion Miami Heat. The first thing he's gotta do is get that name changed. ...

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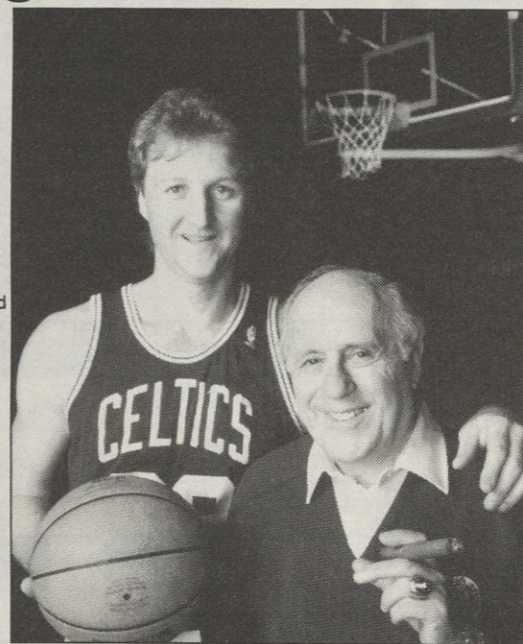
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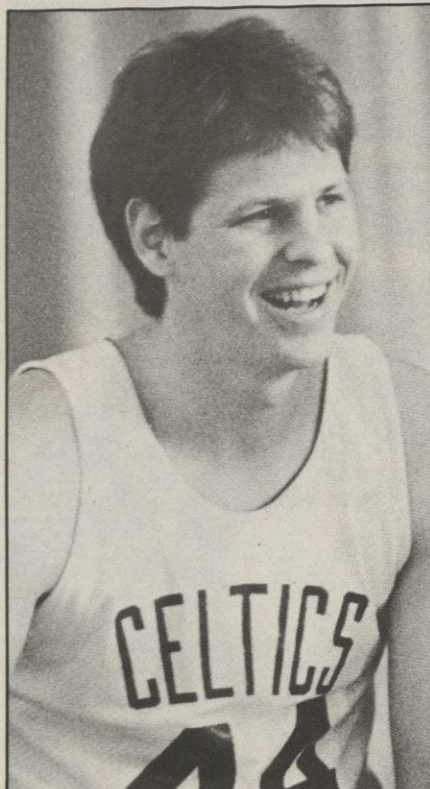
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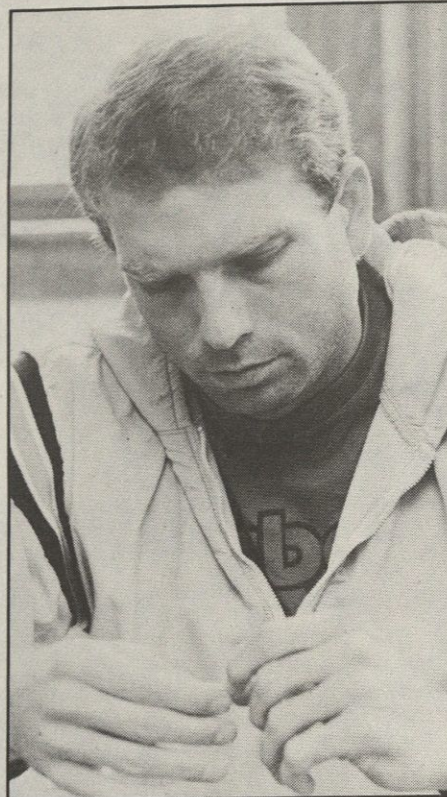
By Bob Schron

The 1987-88 National Basketball Association Pre-Season was underway last week when camps opened throughout the league. The Celtics under coach **K.C. Jones** and Assistants **Jimmy Rodgers** and **Chris Ford** were scheduled to hold a preliminary rookie camp on October 4th before the veterans were to assemble, October 9th. However, the labor problems which first plagued professional football and then led to that professional sport's strike, September 22nd, threatened to cast the same shadow on the NBA, which has heretofore prided itself on harmonious relations between management and the players' association. . . . The key issues on the bargaining table (The two sides sat down for negotiations in New York, September 28th) are free agency, the salary cap, and the draft. . . . "The owners want to maintain the current system for all three," reported the USA Today's **David Dupree**, "The players want the right for first refusal removed for free agents and the elimination of the college draft and the salary cap." . . . **Jerry Sichting** injured his ankle in summer workouts, diagnosed as a "severe" sprain, according to the guard, heading into his eighth season in the league, his third with the Celtics. "At the start, I may only be able to participate in one drill a day as opposed to (the normal) two drills." Sichting received therapy every day for the past three weeks. . . . **Kevin McHale**, the focus of concern for the team during last season's playoffs and after his surgery June 22nd, had his cast removed early last month. . . . McHale was scheduled for a photograph session for *Poli and Springs* last week. . . . The New York



Danny Ainge: Proud Papa.

Post's **Peter Vecsey** reported in a mid-September issue that **Red Auerbach** "might" be contemplating dickering with free agent **Cliff Robinson**, who played with the Philadelphia 76ers last season. . . . Robinson has played with six teams in his eight years in the league. . . . Robinson came into the league as a sophomore hardship out of USC. . . . Reports had Pistons coach



Jerry Sichting: Severe Ankle Sprain.

Chuck Daly planning to play the whole game—48 minutes—against the Celtics and **Larry Bird** when the teams play their Pre-Season match in Toledo, Ohio. . . . Rodman of course is the player who verbally blasted Bird, along racial lines, after the Celtics defeated the Pistons in an emotion-charged seven game series last May. . . . There were 74 free agents as camps opened last week.

The Celtics welcomed new Public Relations official **Wayne Levy** to their staff during the summer. . . . The Celtics and the Boston Bruins unified their media credential operations. Members of the sports media assigned to cover the Celtics and/or the Bruins qualified to cover both. . . . **Gregory Charles Vetrano** was born last week, the son of Secretary **Patty Vetrano** in the team's front office. . . . Gregory Charles is the second son of Patty and husband John Vetrano. . . . The Celtics expanded their office structurally over the summer, knocking down a wall opposite the Public Relations office.

The Celtics began working out informally at Boston College in Chestnut Hill outside of Boston. . . . Among early trainees were **Conner Henry**, **Greg Kite**, **Rick Carlisle**. The following week, **Danny Ainge**, **Robert Parish** and **Dennis Johnson** were expected to join the other players. . . . Henry took in the Boston Red Sox-Detroit Tiger baseball game September 22. . . . **M.L. Carr** spoke to Raytheon Corporation in conjunction with that corporation's United Way drive. . . . **Robert Parish** appeared with the WBZ-Radio "Morning Team" in a Boston television promo. . . . The Celtics will feature a new half-hour pre-game program before every one of their televised away contests on the team's television home, WLVI-Channel 56. . . . Most observers would probably be surprised to hear this, but **M.L. Carr** has the highest degree of respect for Lakers Coach **Pat**

Riley. The two of course were dire nemeses during the Celtics-Lakers Finals wars in 1984 and 1985. "Pat Riley is an excellent coach. I respect him because he's the same type of competitor during the game. But we were always at odds because we were after the same goal—the championship."

Ed Badger, the Celtics chief scout in the area of national collegiate scouting, interviewed for the position of Director of Playing Personnel for the Milwaukee Bucks in Milwaukee in late September. This was the position vacated by **Stu Inman** who left to take a similar post with the Miami Heat, one of the three expansion franchises in the league. . . . Other people who interviewed for the post included **Bob Zuffaleto**, former Boston College Coach and most recently a representative for **Bob Woolf**, an agent in Boston (Larry Bird's agent). . . . Zuffaleto came to most games at the Boston Garden last season but at least last year, seemed to struggle in that end of the business. . . . Badger asserted that he needed a decision before **K.C. Jones** opened the team's rookie camp October 4th. . . . **Reggie Lewis**, the team's number one draft choice in June, attended a rookie orientation camp in Dallas. The camp was presented by the National Basketball Association. . . . **Danny and Michelle Ainge** were the proud parents of their fourth child, **Taylor Ainge**, on Saturday, September 26. . . . The baby weighed 7½ pounds. . . . The Celtics Media Guide this season will feature five players on the cover, a feature that departs from precedent of recent seasons. Not surprisingly, the five are the Iron Man starting five, **Dennis Johnson**, **Larry Bird**, **Kevin McHale**, **Danny Ainge** and **Robert Parish**. The group nearly carried the team to the title a season ago. . . . The Celtics radio network, originating this season for the first time on WEEI, has 53 affiliates and is the largest in NBA history. . . . Besides the 50 in New England, two stations in Indiana are included and also, **KRAM**, of Las Vegas, Nevada. . . . Owner and Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Celtics, **Paul Dupee** became Chairman of London Investment Trust Plc (LIT), a large international futures and options broking and clearing house over the summer. Also, Mr. Dupee was elected to the board of CCA Galleries which deals with the promotion of contemporary British arts. To summarize a busy off-season, Mr. Dupee was appointed as a Trustee of Brown University of Rhode Island. . . . **Dr. Arnold Scheller**, 39 was named the new Celtics Team Doctor, replacing **Dr. Thomas Silva**, the team doctor for nineteen seasons. . . . Dr. Scheller is on the staff of Orthopedics at the New England Baptist Hospital (where he performed off-season surgery on **Kevin McHale**) as well as on the staff of Sports Medicine System Inc. in Brookline. He is on the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and The American Academy of Sports Medicine. Dr. Scheller is a graduate of the Boston University of Medicine and as an undergraduate played four years as a starting middle guard and linebacker for the Terriers Football team.

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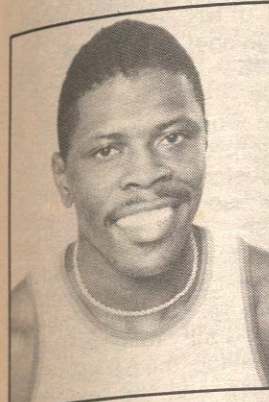


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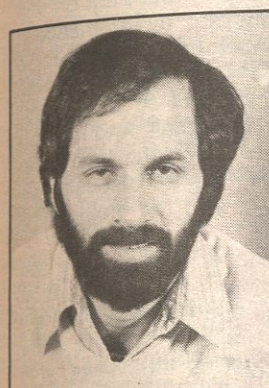
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Patrick Ewing

New York Knicks' Center **PATRICK EWING**, who read General Manager **Al Bianchi's** comments that Bianchi would consider trading even him, met with the general manager and told him: "If they're gonna trade me, the only places I'd go to would be Boston or L.A. I would only go to an organization with a proven winning record. If they sent me anywhere else, I'd rather retire. I was definitely serious."



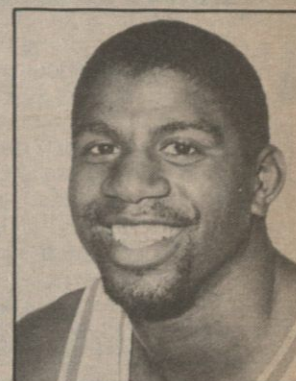
Peter Vecsey

New York Post columnist **PETER VECSEY** on the Boston Celtics as teams were milling around before the start of Pre-Season: "The Celtics aren't exactly staggering, but they're acting their age more than ever before, are severely handicapped to improve on account of their salary structure, and can't be sure when, if ever, Kevin McHale and Bill Walton will rejoin them following off season foot surgery."

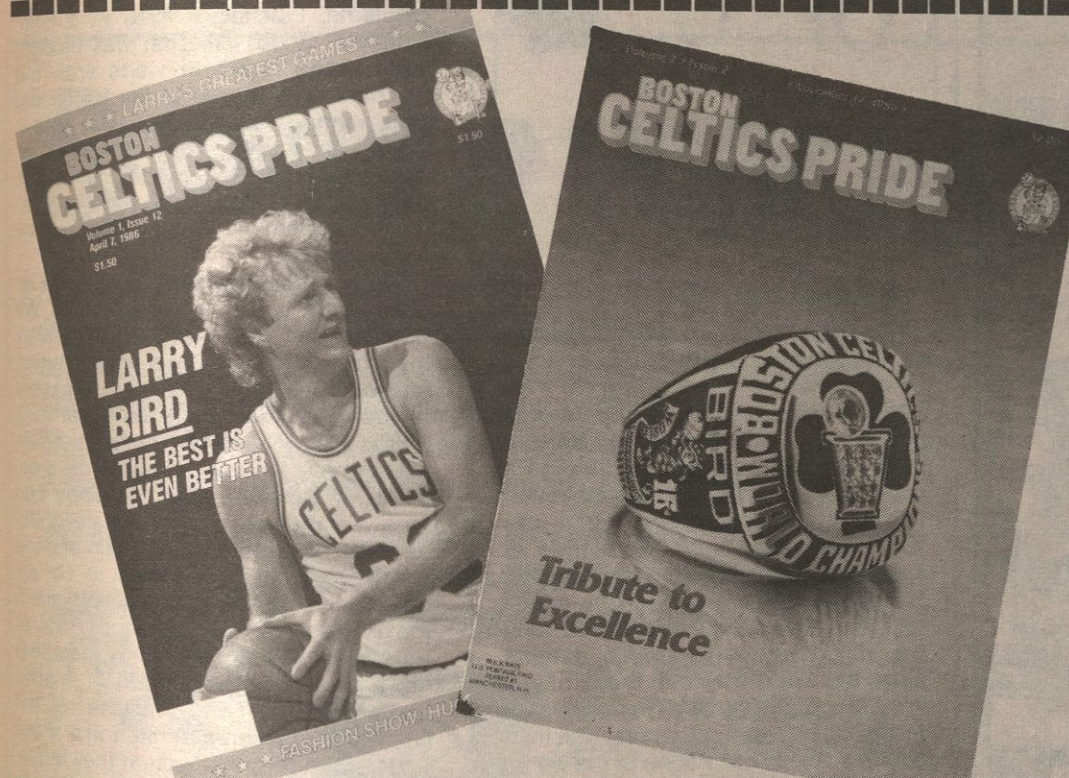
EARVIN MAGIC JOHNSON on the excitement about playing against Boston: "Nobody gets me up the way Boston does. First of all, I get as high emotionally as I can possibly get. Secondly, the basketball is just so good. It's the best basketball that can be played between two teams. I love to watch the tapes, to see the execution. "For me, there's nothing like going to Boston. The people are in there hollering 20 minutes before the game. To me, they're the way basketball fans should be. And they're the only team that gets our crowd going that way. On a normal night, you don't see people come to our place early. When Boston's in town, they're out there early, yelling at them. I love it."



Bob Ferry



Magic Johnson



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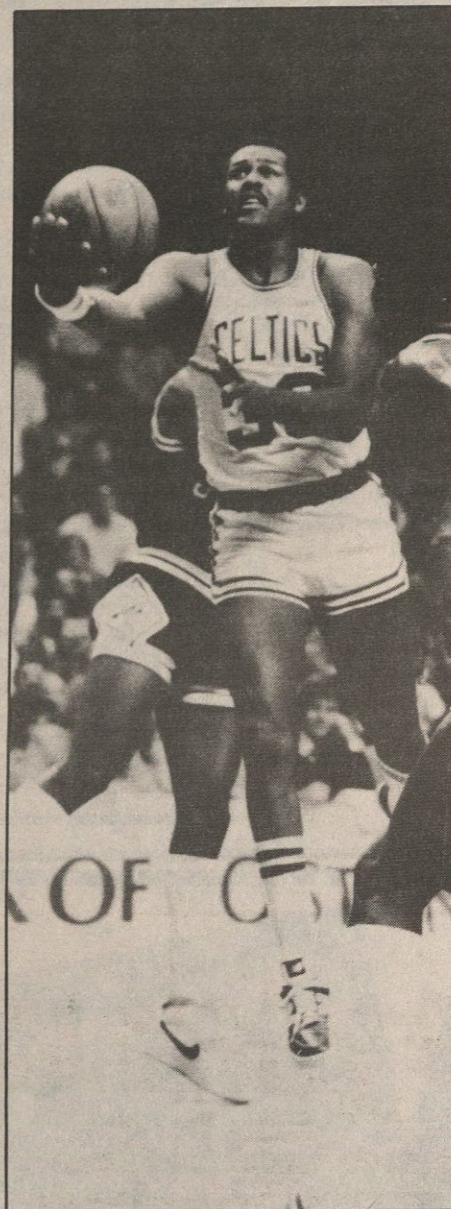
M.L. Carr

Writing My Book

It has been an interesting and productive summer for me this year. We have made tremendous strides in my business, outside of Boston. In addition to our consulting company, we have built a strong new chemical company, focusing on the field of sanitary maintenance. But the most exciting part of the off-season for me this year has been the finishing up of my autobiography, *Don't Be Denied: My Story*. In it, I have discussed some of the great and complex adventures of my life in basketball and after the game. In it, I have attempted to

portray how I have been able to rechannel the energies of professional athletics into the business world. In it, I have attempted to show how a life of persistence and determination can result in success and self-satisfaction.

I had some obstacles growing up. I struggled at first when I was starting out in school. Later the fight continued: I was one of twenty-seven students to integrate the school system in my home of Wallace, North Carolina. But through it all, I was always determined to make a stand, however unpopular. I had a great help because I had some real talent in the sport of basketball. Because of this and because of the great support I re-



M.L. Carr: Wouldn't Be Denied.

ceived from family and friends, I was able to carry my game and my ideals a long way. I wouldn't accept "No" as a final answer. Rather, I always looked at this answer to mean "Not yet." I was cut from my first team in professional sports, the Kentucky Colonels; but I refused to make their answer my own. I took that self-denied message a long way, but their were curious detours along the way. I played in the old Eastern League with two Pennsylvania teams. Money wasn't that plentiful then so I was able to get a taste of the working world, as a correction officer in a penitentiary and later as a car salesman. Then I played basketball in Israel, in the heart of the Middle East crisis and I unexpectedly began to understand the feelings of having a police escort. In some places in Europe, being on an Israeli team wasn't one of the most popular positions in the world. But I survived; the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem became one of my favorite places, a place where men and women pray for salvation. That

must work, I remember telling myself. So I went to the Wall and prayed I would eventually land an NBA uniform! Gratefully, and through endless hours of hard physical conditioning, I made that dream come true.

The years in Boston, undoubtedly, were the highlight of my career. I had great times in Boston—with teammates like Dennis Johnson, Cedric Maxwell, Gerald Henderson, Larry Bird, Tiny Archibald and others. In the book, I had an opportunity to discuss these times in depth and it was an elevating time for me, a great opportunity to relive the excitement: the winning, the parades, yes, the towel waving, and the incredible brotherly feeling of playing on a professional basketball team that has the style and substance of the Boston Celtics.

But I firmly believe, and I act on this assumption daily, that my experience in professional basketball, under people as inspiring as K.C. Jones and Red Auerbach, have served also as a prelude to my life after basketball. And it is this realm I linger in during the final chapters in the book, where I discuss business, and family, and the problems of youth, and more.

And I found that in a lot of ways, contrary to the popular saying, you can go home again. We spent several days this summer back home in Wallace doing research, conducting interviews, visiting, and writing. I found people who still were friends, who I still respected and who still had strong, positive feelings for me. Oh, I endured some hard times back home but through some of the real problems, I believe I lived in a community of good will. That was brought back home again in visits with old teachers, with friends of the family and with school classmates. There was a feeling of unreality, too sometimes, almost as if time had turned back into the present and I was able to have another direct involvement with my past and my entire heritage.

But the main thrust of the volume resides in its title: *Don't Be Denied!* We want to have people inspired to go after their own goals, dreams after reading my book. We hope to encourage people to cope with their problems, regardless of how insurmountable those obstacles may appear. I'm excited about the prospects of interacting with friends and fans in this medium. It was a delightful forum to be competing in again and the publishing industry proved to be another accomplishable task, even for a rookie. We continue to apply so many of the principles set forth by personal heroes of mine, such as Dr. Martin Luther King and the President of the Celtics, Red Auerbach. Men like these understood that the system they implemented must stand the test of time. In my business, we have established a workable system, for example. Hard work and individual accomplishment surpass the need for workers to have a domineering boss standing over them constantly.

These men understood the need to have people working together. And working freely and with determination. Not to be denied their opportunity for achievement and success.

Thanks for the Memories

A Final Memory

My greatest Celtic memory happened last year, during the last game of the playoffs, but it actually started a few weeks before that. I was working as a Registered Nurse at a local Nursing Home. One Sunday I was informed of a new patient we had. I went in to her room to introduce myself to her. I found a very small, fragile lady in her seventies lying in bed. Her name was Rena. She had a small radio on her bedside table, had a small radio on her bedside table, tuned to the Celtics game. Upon discovering our mutual interest in the Celtics, we became fast friends.

"How about that Larry Bird! He has such charisma!" she said to me. I turned all available televisions to the televised games, and would also spend time with Rena listening on the radio. Rena had a form of bone cancer, which is very painful. She required substantial amounts of pain medication to keep her comfortable. She was unable to move at all, and had to be turned by the nurses frequently. I would position her just before a game would start so she would be fairly comfortable. We would listen, she would smile and cheer the Celtics on. But her health was quickly deteriorating. During the last game of the playoffs she was very weak and in a lot of pain. I tuned her radio to the game and also all available television sets. While listening with her I tried to see some of the game on TV. Rena was very quiet, only smiling every now and then. After it was over

and everyone in the Nursing Home was cheering over the win, Rena said "I knew they would do it, I knew they would win." She was so content.

Ten minutes after the game was over, Rena passed away. I wasn't sad, she had been suffering so while she was with us. I was very happy that she lived long enough to see her beloved Celtics win their "Sweet Sixteen." I'll never forget how happy she was just before she died. I will never forget the Boston Celtics and their "Sweet Sixteen Victory" I love you, Celtics.

Darlene Piccirillo, RN

Thank-You Sam

This past season following the Celtics has been extra special. I have been following Sam Vincent's career since his junior year at Michigan State. And this past March I was able to meet him and the whole team. After that first meeting I met them again and again through the playoffs. I became real good friends with Sam and D.J. They know me by my first name. Sam is so very special and so sweet and thoughtful. Sam took me and two of my friends into the fifth game of the playoffs against the Lakers. It was an awesome game and more special because Sam took me in. I want to thank you again Sam and best of luck in the new season.

Shelly Lane



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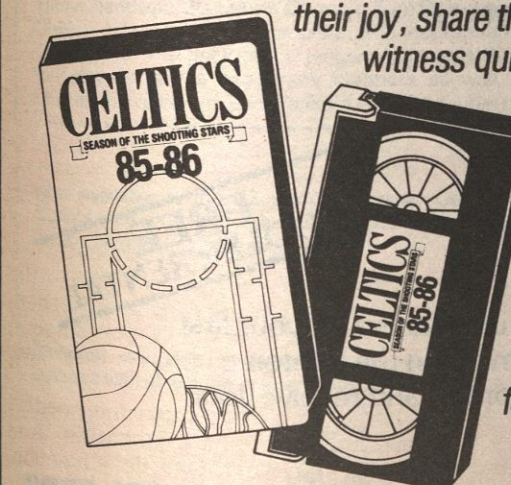
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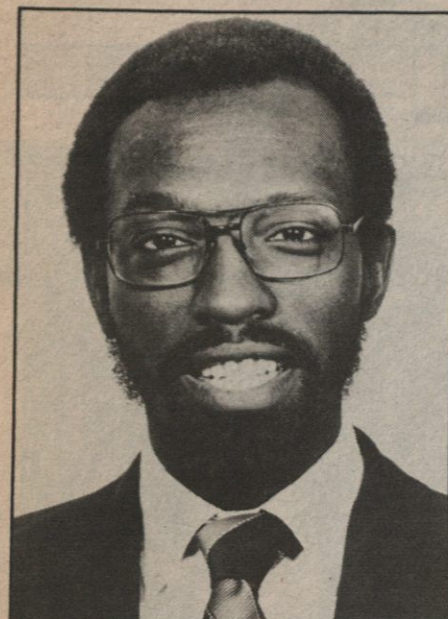
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Tom Sanders: Player as Role Model

Cap and Gown

Tom Sanders Addresses Graduates

business, religion and sports. But more recently, less heroic doings have received great media attention, thus complicating the search for heroes.

"Can we really afford to have Ivan Boesky's freely trading off inside information to make money?" he asked. "Can we afford to have used autos palmed off as brand new cars? Can we

afford to have businesses slim down their work force to maintain a good profit margin? I'm aware that there are people who are saying, 'That's capitalism,' but you have to be aware that it's capitalism for the employees, too."

Noting similar troubles in politics, such as the Iran-Contra affair, and athletics, Sanders challenged the gradu-

ates to become role models themselves, even though it won't be easy. He said college had prepared them for the challenges of later life by teaching discipline as well as how to develop and satisfy their curiosity, then concluded with two pieces of advice:

"Do some good while doing well for yourself—you'll find it equally fulfilling as making money. Secondly, respect everyone, including folks you dislike or don't feel deserve respect. This will help you two ways—you won't ever underestimate anyone, and in turn you will be respected."

Tom Sanders, recently named the NBA's Director of Player Programs, delivered the commencement address to summer graduates of Nasson College in Portland, ME and urged the students to become role models themselves rather than emulate others.

"At one time it was easy to pick a role model," said Sanders, who received an honorary doctorate of business degree at the commencement. Sanders noted that in earlier years, young people could choose from heroes in government,

Dave Bing Honored

Former Celtic and Detroit Pistons star Dave Bing, now Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bing Steel, Inc., was presented with the Mercy Medallion for his dedication to the city of Detroit at the eighth annual Works of Mercy dinner earlier this month.

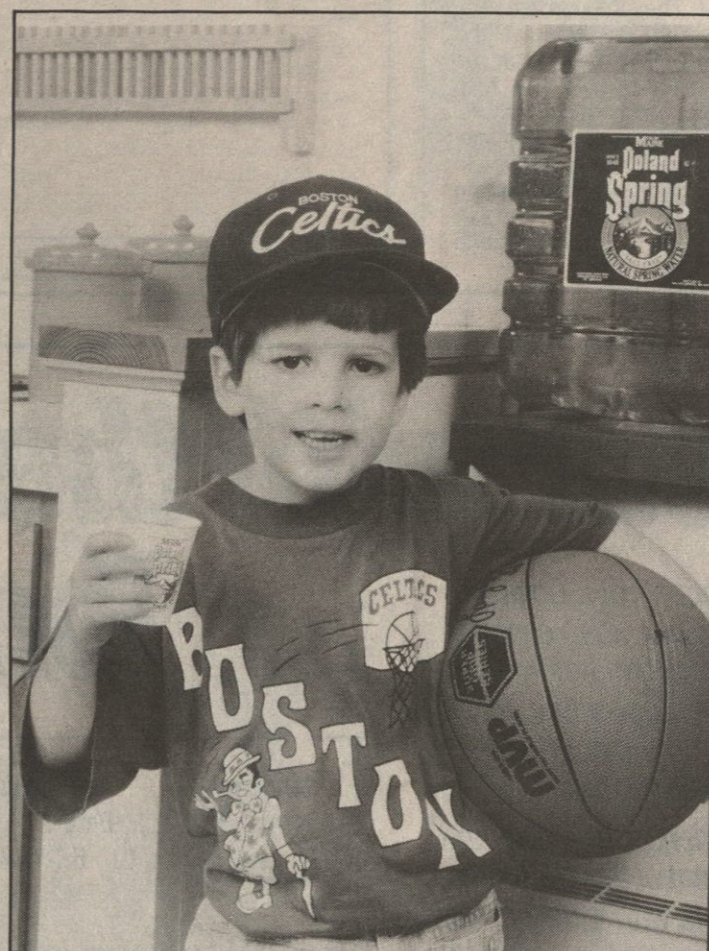
The Mercy Medallion is presented each year by Mercy College in Detroit to individuals whose lives and activities are examples of traditional or contemporary works of mercy.

An active participant in the business and civic community, Bing has devoted most of his professional life to Detroit. Retiring from a 12-year NBA career that included nine seasons as one of the Detroit Pistons' top stars, Bing joined a Detroit based steel company and started his own firm in 1980. Bing Steel, Inc., has grown from a four-person operation to the largest minority owned steel service center in the nation. His original four employees are still with him today, among a staff of about 70.

Puzzle Solution from page 11

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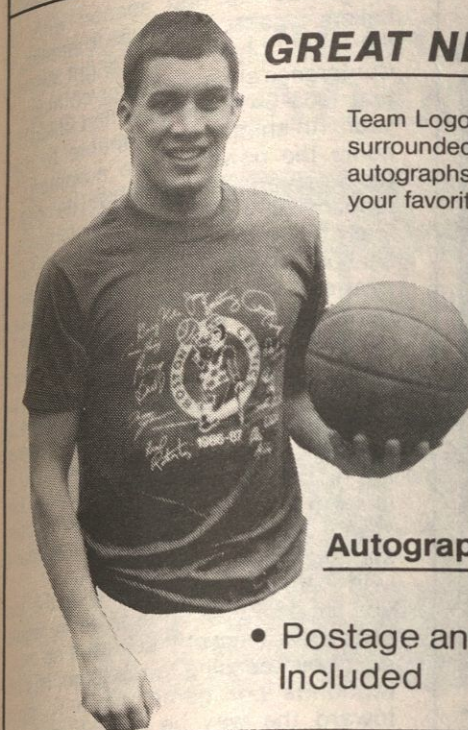
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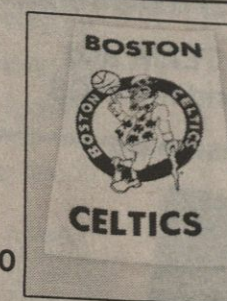
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Celtics Classics

Don Nelson's basketball career has spanned several ages and phases of the game. From his days at the University of Iowa, when he averaged 21.1 ppg from 1959-62 against Big Ten competitors such as John Havlicek and Jerry Lucas, through his days with the Celtics when he played on five championship teams, Nelson established himself as both a

Acquiring Don Nelson

smart competitor and as a talent that was often overlooked. As a player, Nelson possessed a wide variety of abilities. He understood the team game completely, so he was able to balance his scoring skills with good fundamen-



Don Nelson: Another of Red's Steals.

tal passing skill and physical positioning underneath. He wasn't quick, but he was big (6-6, 210) so he would bump effectively to compensate for this lack of speed. Besides, his knowledge of the game enabled him to beat a player to that player's favorite spot on the floor. Nelson also set very strong picks and was particularly important when the team altered its offense in the early seventies.

Of course, Don Nelson's playing career, which ended in 1975-76 with his fifth championship over Phoenix, depicts only part of the Nelson basketball portrait. He went on to coach the Milwaukee Bucks immediately after playing, taking over the Bucks in 1976 after Larry Costello was fired eighteen games into that season. As coach of the Bucks, he set up a strong line of communication with a developing ballclub and over time developed into one of the best coaches in the game. For a variety of reasons Nelson's teams never won an NBA championship in Milwaukee. He left the Bucks after last season with a final coaching mark of 540-344 in regular season history and 42-46 in post season. His win total is 11th highest in league annals. Red Auerbach still leads this esteemed group with a 938-479.662 mark, directly ahead of a career coach, Dr. Jack Ramsay, 826-732.530. The gap in winning percentage there however will never be bridged.

Don Nelson ironically was one of the least likely people to create such an impact on the game, despite his valuable college career under Ralph Miller. He was drafted in the third round by the old Chicago Zephyrs before that franchise shifted to Baltimore to become the Baltimore Bullets. He was the 19th pick in the whole draft that season but logged just 1071 minutes in 62 games on an expansion team. Interestingly, Nelson, if overlooked by organizations, coaches, the media and the fans, still had the respect of the most important people: the superstars. Jerry West recommended the Lakers try to acquire Nelson and in September of 1963, Nelson was sold to L.A. Nelson played in

80 games his first season with the Lakers, a season that was frustrating to the team. It had three straight Western Conference championships coming into that 1963-64 season, but had failed that year, finishing 42-38 unable to overcome the powerful size advantage of the San Francisco Warriors. The onus of responsibility shifted even more dramatically to the fabulous West the following season. Baylor's knees were becoming near career-threatening and the Lakers became even more conservative and individual-oriented. West set a career-high average that season with a 31.1 ppg scoring mark and the Lakers went to The Finals once again; but for a player like Don Nelson, the concentration of the team's offense toward one man hindered Nelson's ability to contribute, even in subtle ways that don't appear in statistics.

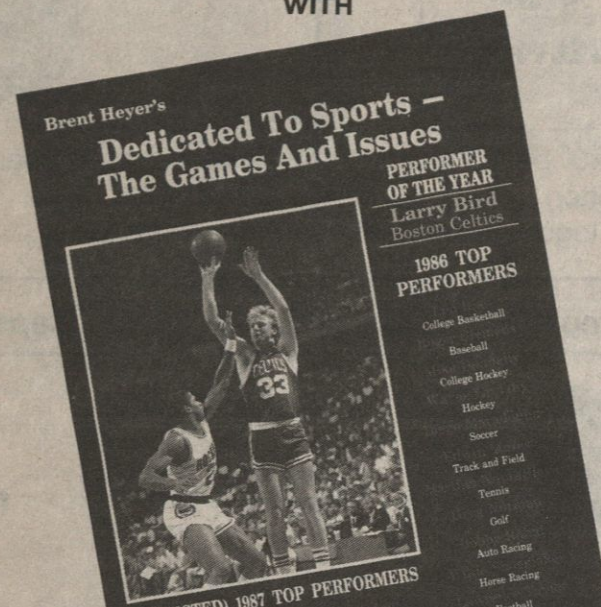
In Nelson's nine years with the Celtics, an 11.5 scoring average in regular season and playoffs don't tell as much about his meaning to the team. His five rebounds per game begin to point toward the way he contributed. His clutch shooting, highlighted by a dramatic seventh game basket in the closing seconds of The Finals in 1969, says even more. Nelson's ability to place himself in textbook position on the floor was manifested also in the way he played: he always had great presence of mind as a player and he was a terrific clutch player. The 1969 shot broke the backs of a Laker rally and gave the Celts Bill Russell's final NBA title. Later after he finished playing Nelson gained more recognition. Surrounded by such ingenious basketball minds such as Auerbach, Russell, Havlicek, Tom Sanders and K.C. Jones, and later others like Silas, Cowens, Don Chaney and his Coach in Boston, Tom Heinsohn, Nelson's astute coaching aptitude wasn't surprising. Later as coach, Nelson also became notorious for his emotional outbursts. As Nelson concluded his productive career with the Celtics, he fought continually with Heinsohn who was forced to reduce Nellie's playing time. They would bicker constantly. Not infrequently, Nelson would turn to the young Bob Ryan on The Boston Globe beat and voice his displeasure about Heinsohn's coaching.

Now, Nelson has temporarily ended his coaching career, a coaching life that brought him into argumentative contact with his former team. He labeled Danny Ainge a "dirty" player in 1983 as Milwaukee was sweeping the Celtics and Auerbach temporarily refused Nelson's phone calls. Ainge really has never forgiven Nelson totally. In 1986, Boston was motivated to avenge that sweep and swept the Bucks back en route to the title. Last season Nelson's Bucks and Jones's Celtics waged an incendiary war with the Celtics winning a classic. Now after a feud with Bucks owner Herb Kohl, Nelson has left Milwaukee to become Executive Vice-President of the Golden State Warriors and in the move there is an option to purchase stock in the team. For a man who "thought his career was over" when acquired by the Celtics, Nelson's fulfilled a greater destiny.

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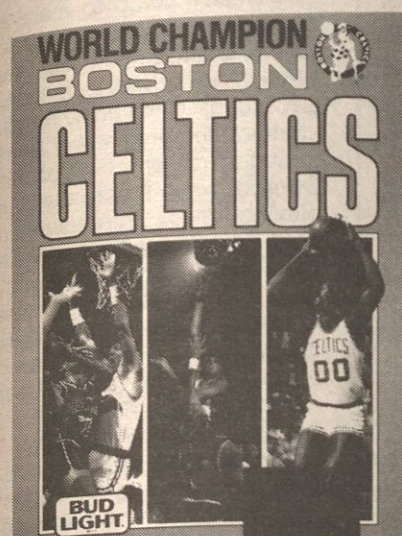
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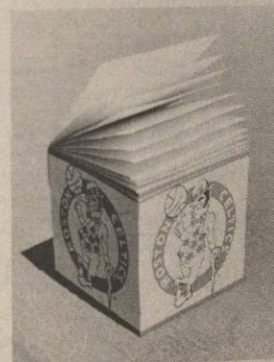
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Celtics Greats

One of a long line of famous "Twelfth Men," Terry Duerod was one of the most popular of the team's players in his short stint with the Celtics. Duerod was signed as a free agent after being released by the Dallas Mavericks midway through the 1980-81 season. He was a 6-2 180-pound guard from the University of Detroit, a player with exceptional shooting and jumping abilities. Duerod was a man of equally fine-tuned humor, too. Normally there is a cool period for a new player when he joins a new team. New teammates have to judge a man—his abilities, his temperament, his willingness to fit into the team scheme. For the good-natured Duerod, the warming up took place quickly. He laughed easily, could play very well, and loved the game. He became "Due" and the Boston Garden faithful took to him quickly too.

Duerod grew up in Detroit and went to college in the Motor City under the now-popular ESPN and ABC television commentator Dick Vitale. As a shooting guard, Duerod averaged 15.2 ppg in college, including a fine 23.2 ppg mark in his senior season at UD. Because of this and because of his affiliation with Vitale, Duerod, along with teammates Terry Taylor and John Long, all were

Terry Duerod: Boston's Great 12th Man

drafted by the NBA Detroit Pistons. All three may have used their contact to gain entry into the professional level, but on the other hand, all three could play the game and all believed in themselves. Tyler and Long are still in the league (Earl Cureton also was a close friend of Duerod and played on the UD team); Duerod after being released by the Celtics, moved back to Detroit to work for a marketing firm. He went through a training program that had him in the Philippines for a year, where fortunately he evaded the machinations of the Marcos regime. Today he continues to work for the firm in Detroit.

"I loved playing the game," he said recently, "but when the time came to leave it, I could accept that, too." He and his wife Rose continue to be close with several of the present and former Celtics.

Duerod's professional career was short-lived. He played a season with the Pistons before going to Dallas in the 1980 expansion draft. His initial meeting with the Celtics was positive—Red

Auerbach insisted the Mavericks had made an error letting Duerod go when Duerod met with Red in their first encounter. Yet, for much of the time in Boston Duerod rarely got off the bench. He challenged the Celtics regular guards (Chris Ford, Tiny Archibald and Gerald Henderson) in practice but there wasn't enough playing time to be spread around. Yet, the chemistry was right; Duerod's ability surpassed that of holdover Wayne Kreklow and Due kept the final roster spot throughout the final half of the year as the Celtics won their first championship of the Bird era in 1980-81. But the reality of the numbers game was something Duerod had to cope with the following summer and Pre-Season. The Celtics had drafted two guards following their championship year, Charles Bradley and Danny Ainge who at the time was still playing baseball with the Toronto Blue Jays. Unless Duerod could come in the ensuing year and have a spectacular camp—unexpectedly, people around the team generally felt his days would probably be numbered.

"I trained extremely hard for that camp," Duerod recalled. "I hadn't played much the previous year and had lost some of my competitive edge as well as my conditioning."

"I wasn't going to make it an easy decision if they decided to release me."

Terry Duerod came into Pre-Season in 1981-82 in superb condition, his muscles supple, lending to the player's outstanding jumping ability. Under the controlled hand of then-Coach Bill Fitch, Duerod wasn't actually able to gain playing time to demonstrate his talents, but he did save a spot on the team when the season started. Meanwhile, the Celtics had forged an agreement with Ainge, and the wheels were turning to delete Ainge for the baseball roster and place him in Celtics Green. For Duerod, the days with the Celtics were winding down to a precious few.

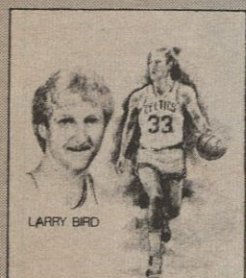
But he had several good practices with the team and during the fall of the season, he made some strong showings with the team. Against Washington, with the team struggling, Fitch signalled Duerod into the game and in the fourth quarter, Duerod scored five straight long jumpers and keyed a Celtics victory in the Garden, with the assembled throng flocking to his side. Fitch recalled the moment later with glee, "I just knew that somehow, some way, Terry Duerod would help us win this ballgame. There isn't a guy on the team who pays more dues than Due, no pun intended. He's an outstanding young man." Duerod was a perfect illustration of the Celtics' drive to establish chemistry among the personalities on their team. In every practice, Duerod was breaking a near-legendary sweat. Through the extra practice, too; long after the test of the team was gone, it would often be Gerald Henderson, Larry Bird and Duerod staying after, late into the afternoon. Duerod was a certified "gym rat."

"But I was able to walk away from it," recalled Duerod. "You can wait around so long and then you realize you have a family to support, a life to live no matter how much you loved the game." Many didn't think Duerod had the skills to take on some of the intricacies of marketing, but he proved them false. He entered the aforementioned training program and came out of it a successful businessman.

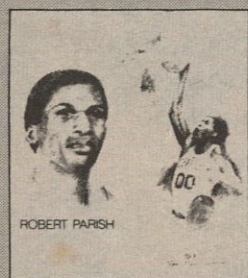
"Hey, you make up your mind and you put yourself to work. I knew I could learn the things I needed to learn just by hanging in there and gaining the necessary experience. I could always get along with people and I have great endurance. And great faith. Rose Duerod is a fine woman, the daughter of a minister in Detroit."

"Things in the businessworld don't match up to basketball in terms of immediate thrills. But I benefitted from the 'Celtic experience.' I still see a lot of the guys when the team or the players I played with are in Detroit. Earl Cureton (Duerod's best man at his wedding) and I are still in touch. I went to Cedric Maxwell's wedding. There's a feeling of closeness among the Celtics and I think that has a lasting effect."

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Ask Red	☐	☐	☐
K.C.'s Corner	☐	☐	☐
Celtics Confidential	☐	☐	☐
Interview	☐	☐	☐
Celtics Greats	☐	☐	☐
Celtics Classics	☐	☐	☐
Roundball Spoken Here	☐	☐	☐
Celtics Perspective	☐	☐	☐
WRITERS			
M.L. Carr	☐	☐	☐
Glenn Ordway	☐	☐	☐
Ed Gillooly	☐	☐	☐
Bob Schron	☐	☐	☐
Tony Cooper	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

8. Is there any additional coverage of either the NBA or Celtics you would like to see added?

9. Who would you like to see interviewed in upcoming issues?

10. What features would you like to see added?

11. What features would you like to see excluded from Celtics Pride?

12. How did you find out about Celtics Pride? ☐ Magazine (which one) ☐ Friend ☐ T.V. ☐ Other

- GARDEN ATTENDANCE
- Are you able to attend Celtics games? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - How often do you attend? ☐ Whole season ☐ 1/2 Season ☐ 1/4 Season
 - Do you have dinner before the game in Boston? If so where?
 - Do you frequent many fast food restaurants? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 - Which ones do you prefer?

PASSENGER CARS

- How many cars are currently owned by you and your family?
- For each car, please indicate: Make _____ Year _____ Make _____ Year _____ Make _____ Year _____
- BOUGHT: ☐ New ☐ Used ☐ New ☐ Used ☐ New ☐ Used
- If so, will it be a: ☐ Domestic Car ☐ Imported Car ☐ Not Sure

SMOKING/TOBACCO

- Do you smoke or use: ☐ Cigarettes ☐ Cigarillos ☐ None
- If so, what brands: ☐ Pipe Tobacco ☐ Chewing Tobacco

BEVERAGES

- Please check the beverages you order or serve at home: ☐ Domestic Whiskies ☐ Wine/Champagne/Vermouth ☐ Scotch/Canadian/Irish Whiskies
- ☐ Domestic Beers ☐ Vodka/Rum/Gin/Tequila ☐ Imported Beers
- ☐ Brandy/Cognac ☐ Bottled Natural or Spring Water ☐ Cordials/Liqueurs
- ☐ Tonic Water/Club Soda/Ginger Ale ☐ Schnapps

- If you serve/drink beer do you buy it by the case? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- In an average month, how often do you entertain at home? ☐ 1 time ☐ 2 times ☐ 3 times ☐ 4 or more times
- What snacks do you serve? ☐ Chips ☐ Pretzels ☐ Hot Foods ☐ Cold Foods ☐ Other

MEN'S TOILETRIES

- Which of the following items do you use? ☐ Pre-shave Lotion ☐ After Shave Lotion ☐ Shaving Cream
- ☐ Cologne ☐ Hair Grooming Product ☐ Disposable razors

SPORTS PARTICIPATION

- Do you actively participate in any sports? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If so, which ones?

HOME ELECTRONICS

- Do you or a family member own a VCR? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- What brand is it? How many blank or pre-recorded tapes have you purchased in the last year?

- Do you tape televised sports events? ☐ Blank ☐ Pre-recorded
- Do you own a camera? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If so, what brand?

- What brand film do you prefer?
- Do you own a home computer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- If so, please list brand and type

- What make VCR and T.V. do you prefer?

- What type(s) of stereo equipment do you own?

Thank you for all your help.

NAME _____ PHONE # () _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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